

**SKETCHES**  
OF THE MOST IMPORTANT  
**BATTLES OF THE REVOLUTION,**  
EXPLANATORY OF THE  
**VINE OF LIBERTY.**



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BY WILLIAM RANKIN.

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## P R E F A C E .

WHEN the author of the following pages put his Chart, called the VINE OF LIBERTY, into the hands of an artist to be engraved, it was deemed necessary that a short description of each of the Battles represented on the Chart, should be published to accompany it. To meet this demand, this little volume has been hastily prepared.

The following Authors have been consulted; Willard, Sparks, Batta, Willson, Headley, and several others. A few paragraphs have been extracted from Mrs. Willard's "Republic of America," and in a very few instances, from some of the other historians mentioned; but the chief part is the author's own composition, and is *compiled* from an unfinished manuscript, on the Battles of the American Revolution, which he expects soon to publish in a much larger and more perfect volume than the present

*Deckertown N. J., April 11, 1849.*

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# THE VINE OF LIBERTY.

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HIS little work is prepared to accompany a chart on which a Vine is made the emblem of Liberty in such a manner as to illustrate the history of the American Revolution. In the year 1775, Great Britain attempted to compel, by force of arms, her American colonies to submit to measures which they considered oppressive beyond endurance. This attempt the mother country made while laboring under a very important error, which was, that the Americans were destitute of true military courage. She supposed that a little display of arms and some bloodshed, would frighten them into submission; consequently, the war was carried on during the first year without a great and systematic armament on the part of Great Britain; nor did the colonies make an entire separation from the parent country. At the opening of the second year, England came to the conclusion, from what had happened during the previous year, that if she conquered the Americans, much obstinacy and some real courage must be encountered. Parliament, therefore, resolved to prosecute a systematic war. A large number of German troops

were employed ; and a numerous and well organized force left the British ports. This army, consisting of some fifty thousand men, was divided into three departments. The northern, under Burgoyne, was to sail for the St. Lawrence, penetrate the country by way of lake Champlain, and advance as far as Albany. The central, under Howe, was to steer for the middle states, capture New York, and proceeding up the Hudson, unite with the Northern army. The Southern division, commanded by Clinton, was destined to enter the southern states, by capturing Charleston. According to this division of the British army, the vine on the chart, in the second year, is divided into three branches : that on the left denoting the northern army ; the branch in the middle the central department, and the one on the right, the southern. In the second year, also, the Declaration of American Independence was made, which is signified by the flag on the chart. Four varieties of leaves denote the four departments of territory which were the arena of the American Revolution. The hemlock denotes Canada, the maple New England, the oak the middle, and the orange the southern colonies. The fruit signifies battles, and its color the result of those battles. The yellow signifies that victory was in favor of Liberty ; black with light in the center, that the friends of Liberty were defeated, but not disengaged ; and wholly black, that Liberty entirely lost the day. The abrupt termination of the left branch denotes that the northern army was obliterated at the date thus signified.

The general feature of the vine denotes that the war began in the north ; then raged with gloomy and hazardous aspect in the middle states ; and lastly, that it rolled south

ward, and finally resulted gloriously for the cause of liberty.

The various colors of the border on the left denote, as the verses show, the characteristics of each of the seven years. The first is red, denoting of the first shedding of blood at Lexington. The second is black, denoting of the gloom of discouragement on account of the defeat on Long Island, the capture of New York, and the flight of Washington and his vanquished army across New Jersey. The third is crimson, denoting that although a bright day dawned on the cause of freedom, yet it was at the expense of the great effusion of blood on the field of Saratoga. The fourth is green, emblematical of the life of friendship, as in this year the alliance with France was concluded. The fifth signifies that the French alliance prematurely fell into the yellow leaf, and well nigh came to an end in this year. The sixth is blue, denoting faithfulness, as the Americans held on to their purpose through many discouragements. The seventh is white, in token of triumph.

Gates was commander-in-chief of the northern American forces, which annihilated Burgoyne's army; Washington, in person, commanded the central department. When Gates gained the renowned victory of Saratoga, his popularity rose exceedingly high. His friends made an attempt to place him at the head of the American Army by displacing Washington; but in the spirit of their accustomed wisdom, Congress evaded this proposal by appointing Gates to the command of the southern army. Here, in a bloody battle near Camden, S. C., he was sorely defeated; and the hero of Saratoga, crest-fallen, now retired from the theatre of war. Green was appointed to succeed him. Under this gallant commander fortune again smiled on the American cause.

## LEXINGTON.

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IN the Spring of 1775, the arrival of British troops in Boston had so increased their numbers, that the city was become little else than a military garrison. The political horizon became every day more and more lowering, and seemed but to wait the application of a spark to burst into an explosion of civil war. The Congress of Massachusetts had passed a resolution for the procuring of gunpowder and other warlike munitions, requisite for an army of fifteen thousand men; and in anticipation of the British commander carrying hostile operations beyond the confines of Boston, a large number of men in the surrounding country were put under military organization, and called minute-men.

On the 18th of April, Dr. Joseph Warren, chairman of the Committee of Safety in Boston, had received intimation of the secret design of General Gage to send an armed force to Concord, for the purpose of destroying the provincial military stores there deposited, and likewise to capture John Hancock and Samuel Adams, who were then in that town. Dr. Warren immediately sent messengers to alarm the country in the direction of Lexington and Concord, and to give Hancock and Adams timely notice, that they might escape the meditated capture, while he remained in Boston to watch the egress of the British troops,

which was to take place on the night of the 18th. A signal was to be given to the country people, informing them by what route the British left the city. If they passed over Boston Neck, by way of Roxbury, one light was to be put on the steeple of the North Church in Boston ; but if they crossed the water, and proceeded through Cambridge, then two lights were to be displayed on the same steeple.

Consequently, when night came on, the appointed lights sent their significant glare far over the country ; the minute-men, prompt to the call, gathered from all quarters, and hovered round the intruding and offensive troops. These, having passed through Cambridge, reached Lexington about the break of day. In the environs of this village the provincials were seen gathering, with the appearance of resistance. As the British troops approached, Major Pitcairne loudly exclaimed, "Disperse, rebels ! lay down your arms, and disperse !" But the provincials stirred not. He then rushed a few paces in front of the ranks, and brandishing his sword, fired a pistol. Still the provincials stood firm. He then ordered his men to fire ? The Americans scattered, but seven of their number fell, mortally wounded.

The British now pass through Lexington, and continue their march for Concord. As they were seen approaching this town on the one side, John Hancock and Samuel Adams were still in view, making their escape on the other. Thus did these illustrious patriots narrowly evade the grasp of their eager pursuers.

And the red-coated soldiers rush through every street, and ransack every house ; while on distant hills the provincials are again seen gathering. They hover nearer and nearer, and at length seize a bridge a little to

the north of the town. The king's troops were utterly astonished at the persevering boldness of these undisciplined rebels. They had fired upon them, and still they rallied! The light infantry is sent to drive them from the bridge, and hold them in check, while the remainder of the troops proceed to complete their intended work of destruction. They spike cannon, throw powder and bullets into wells, and scatter flour and other provisions in the streets. They then hastily commence a retreat; perceiving which, the provincials summon every nerve to the pursuit.

As the royal troops take their march on the road to Lexington, from the cover of every wood, hedge and stone fence, a continual fire is poured in upon them with most deadly aim. They rally and face about, but no enemy is visible. Again they rush forward, and again the unseen rifle scatters death through their ranks. Thus harassed and bleeding at every step, they enter in confusion the town of Lexington.

General Gage, apprehensive of some disaster, had sent a strong reinforcement, under Lord Percy, which, most opportunely for the retreating party, met them at Lexington. It is thought by judges of military affairs, that had it not been for this timely aid, the entire force at first engaged must have been cut off. The reinforcement brought with them two field-pieces, which being placed in the rear, repressed in some measure the ardor of the assailants. This bloody pursuit, however, continued until the exhausted and bleeding troops of the king came rushing across Charlestown Neck, and took shelter under the cannon of their own ships of war which were lying in the Boston waters. The British troops on that day

had marched above thirty-five miles, and lost in killed, wounded, and missing, two hundred and seventy-three men. The loss of the provincials was eighty-eight. Such was the commencement the of shedding of blood in the American Revolution.



BUTLER

## TICONDEROGA.

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EIGHT or ten day, after the affair at Lexington, some gentlemen, members of the Connecticut Assembly, then in session at Hartford, concerted a plan for capturing the fortress of Ticonderoga. This scheme was concocted and carried out at private expense. Edward Motte and Noah

Phelps were sent towards lake Champlain, authorized to raise men, and immediately attempt the meditated capture. These gentlemen collected

fifteen men in Connecticut, with whom they immediately proceeded to Pittsfield, Mass., where they were joined by Col. Easton and Major John Brown, and thence proceeded to Bennington. Here they met the eccentric but dauntless Ethan Allen, who immedi-

ately proffered his own and the services of his heroic Green Mountain Boys, to aid in the adventure.

Something like a small army now being collected by the influence of these public-spirited individuals, they marched directly to Castleton. Here a council being held, with much promptness, Ethan Allen was chosen commander-in-chief of the expedition, Col. Easton second in command, and Seth Warner third. Just as they had completed their preparations to march for Shoreham, on the margin of the lake, opposite Ticonderoga, a very singular concurrence took place. This was nothing less than the arrival of Col. Arnold from Massachusetts, who had been sent out by the Committee of Safety in Boston, ignorant that a simultaneous and similar expedition was on the march from the colony of Connecticut. Arnold brought no men with him, having been engaged in Stockbridge, raising soldiers for the expedition, when hearing of the movement now under the charge of Allen, he immediately hastened to unite himself with it. But a serious difficulty arose, as to who should be commander-in-chief, Allen or Arnold. The latter gentleman boldly demanded this honor for himself, as acting under the sanction of the paramount authorities at Boston. But when the rumor of this difficulty reached the ears of the men, they most peremptorily decided in favor of Allen. Arnold very prudently acquiesced, and agreed to accompany as a volunteer.

A little before the dawn on the morning of May 10th, 1775, Allen and his gallant New Englanders reached the shore of Champlain, opposite the renowned fortress of Ticonderoga. Col. Allen requested Mr. Beman, a farmer who dwelt there, to pilot him across the lake, and

guide him into the fort.. Mr. B. declined the undertaking, at the same time telling the Colonel that his son Nathan, a lad of fifteen, would no doubt accede to his proposal ; adding, that Nathan was well acquainted with every nook and corner of the fortification, as he spent much of his time in the barracks sporting with the soldiers. This description of Nathan exactly met the views of Allen, as being just the person he wanted. Soon a long row of crowded boats, which had been collected by men sent in advance, were sweeping over the waters, and landing on the western shore of lake Champlain. Now with alacrity the soldiers leap upon the strand. They are immediately drawn up in line by the commander-in-chief, and pointed to the rough summits of Ticonderoga, which, near at hand in mighty strength, seemed to frown down upon them. They advance, and approach a gate opening into a covered way, which leads into the fortress.

At this gate stood a sentinel, who snapped his musket at the assailants, and then fled under the covered way. They immediately followed, and found themselves on the parade-ground of the garrison. Here another sentinel made a pass at an officer with his bayonet ; Col. Allen returned him a blow on the head with his sword, when he threw down his arms and asked for quarter. Allen now demanded to be shown to the apartments of the commander of the garrison. Immediately he was ascending a flight of stairs, with Nathan Beman at his elbow, and thundering at the door, Captain Delaplace, roused from his slumbers, came forward and pettishly asked what was wanted. "I demand," said Allen, "the immediate surrender of this fort." "In whose name do you make this

demand?" asked the captain. "In the name of the great Jehovah and the Continental Congress!" replied Allen. Astounded at the singularity of the occurrence, Captain Delaplace began, in something of a formal manner, to question the legitimacy of this new and almost unheard of authority. Col. Allen cut short the argument by raising his sword over the captain's head, and boisterously vociferating the demand for immediate surrender. Delaplace, finding it his only alternative, complied, and immediately ordered his men to parade without arms.

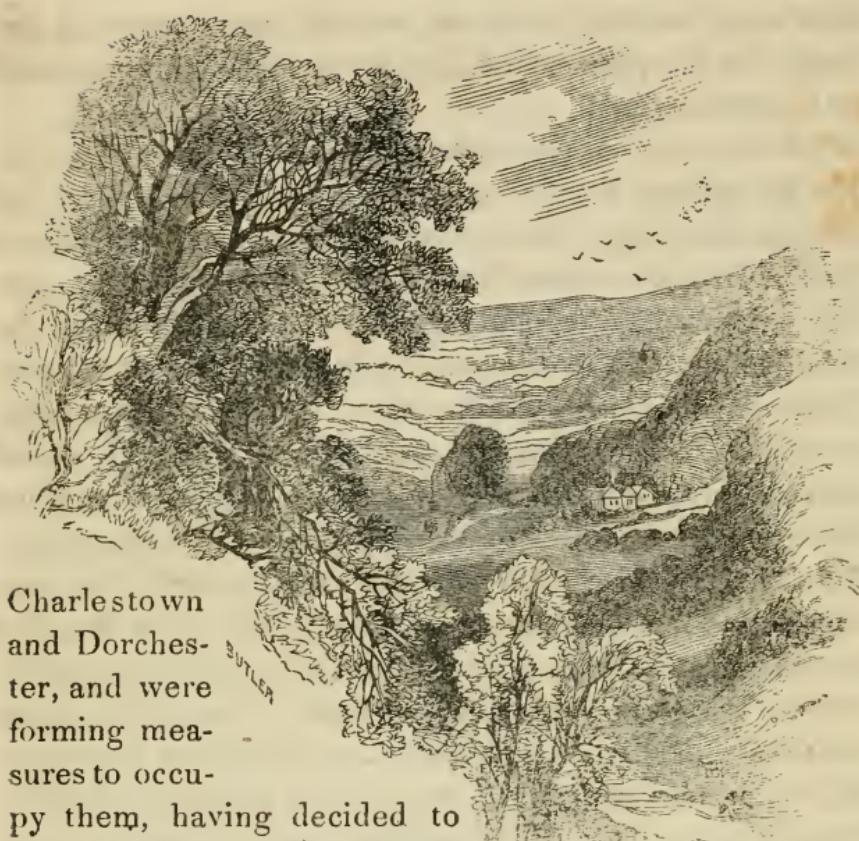
Thus bloodless fell the stronghold of Ticonderoga, with a great number of cannon and military stores, together with thirty soldiers, into the hands of the provincials. A few days afterwards, Crown Point was also taken without bloodshed, by a detachment under the command of Seth Warner. This was likewise a strong fortress, well supplied with munitions, and situated on the lake some twelve or fifteen miles below Ticonderoga.

## BUNKER'S HILL.

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THE two initiatory affairs of Lexington and Ticonderoga having aroused the spirit of war in earnest, the Provincial Congress of Massachusetts assembled, and voted to raise thirteen thousand men in that colony, to rendezvous at Cambridge. They also invited New Hampshire, Rhode Island, and Connecticut, to co-operate with them in raising an army for sustaining the general cause. These provinces responded to the call with promptitude, and forwarded each its quota of troops. Now, upon that semi-circle of head-lands which environs Boston Bay, with its slopes, points, and eminences, united by green valleys, and smiling in all the beauty of its summer garb, was spread out the wings of our citizen army. General Ward was by the colony of Massachusetts placed at the head of the troops from that province, and by a kind of general consent was considered commander-in-chief of the whole army. There also was Putnam, Thomas, Pomeroy, and Stark, all conspicuous by their public spirit, patriotism, and courage.

The British army in Boston amounted to ten thousand regular troops. Thus confronted, both armies seemed alike confident of success, and anxious for a trial. The British were naturally mortified at their condition as besieged. They looked with anxiety to the heights of



Charlestown  
and Dorches-  
ter, and were  
forming mea-  
sures to occu-

py them, having decided to  
put these measures in force

the 18th of June. They regarded their opponents as rude, untaught and cowardly farmers, and were nettled at being kept at bay by an army clothed in calico frocks and carrying fowling-pieces. On the other hand, the provincials, not feeling their lack of discipline as they should have done, burned to measure strength with their haughty opponents in the field of battle. It was consequently resolved, in session of the Committee of Safety, on the 15th of June, to anticipate the enemy, and entrench on Bunker's Hill. This resolution was kept a profound secret, and orders were privately communicated to Colonel Prescott to head a detachment of twelve hun-

dred men, selected from the several departments of the army, for the purpose of advancing and making a stand at Charlestown.

After sunset, on the 16th of June, 1775, were seen collecting a large body of soldiers on the green before the college buildings. After solemn prayer had been offered by Dr. Langdon, then President of the College, the men immediately filed off and took up their march along the road leading to Charlestown Neck. Two sergeants, carrying dark lanterns, led the way. While all in silence moved on and approached the neck, a rumbling sound was heard on the left, and two heavily loaded wagons came on the road leading from Medford. These wagons fell in with the train, and it was ascertained that they were loaded with intrenching tools. This was the first intimation that most of the soldiers had of the business for which they were that night destined. They approach the town of Charlestown, all silent and buried in slumbers. It was a moonless night; the sky was clear, and the stars shone out brightly. The soldiers halt, and stand in silence. A few officers step forward and draw together, as if in earnest consultation, or rather debate. The hours of a short mid-summer night are fast rolling away; still the discussion goes on. At length the clocks in Charlestown begin to tell the hour of midnight. Hearing this, Colonel Gridley, in something of an elevated voice, remarked "Gentlemen, unless you come to an immediate decision, the precious time will have passed, and our whole scheme must prove a failure." At that moment the tall figure of Colonel Prescott was seen advancing a few steps, and giving command: "Here place the first stake," and a redoubt of eight rods square was marked

out on the summit of Breed's Hill, which was a lower swell of Bunker Hill. The intrenching tools were distributed, the spade and the mattock were plunged into the fresh earth, and a wall of clay began to rise round that devoted spot. Prescott now led a guard through the streets of Charlestown to the water's edge. He thought it was impossible but that the laborers on the hill must be heard, for there lay the great ships of war on the still waters. But when he heard the sentinel on deck, pacing his nightly round, cry "all's well," the Colonel remarked, "There is more need for our hands than for our ears," and led his men back, and set them to work on the intrenchment. They toiled on through the hours of that short night; but short and few as those hours were, they were long enough for reflection. Those men that were spading up that fresh earth had firesides but a little way off, and they had wives and children there. They knew that before another sun should set, their own blood must moisten the earth their hands was loosening. They had time to reflect and strike the balance between their public rights and private joys; and they resolved to fight. Deep was that resolve fixed that bore them through the terrible scenes of the ensuing day.

Now the morning rays begin to sprinkle the dewy earth. The mantle of fog and mist is lifted a little, and the low wall of fresh earth around that mysterious fortification appears beneath. The cannon of the five war ships in the Boston waters open with incessant explosions. The tens of thousands in Boston rouse from their slumbers, and rush to view the scene. The sun rises and reddens behind the rolling columns of sulphurous smoke.

A council of war is held on the hill, in which it is re-

solved that the hands that reared the breast-works during the night can defend them during the day. A council of war is also held in Boston. The British determined that these impudent rebels must forthwith be driven from their lodgment. Now the hour of battle draws nigh. Men are seen beneath the curling smoke, galloping to and from the hill. In Boston, every window, balcony, and steeple is transformed into a disc of faces. The burning mid-summer sun climbs the eastern sky. Cannon balls fall like a shower of rain around the devoted redoubt. Then twenty-eight barges leave Long Wharf, in Boston, carrying the British armament. They sail across the waters ranged in two parallel lines. The bayonets and brass cannon glitter in the sun. They land; martial music is struck up, and floating banners appear. The long files of red coats advance. The Americans crouch in silence behind their earthen rampart; their hearts beat high, but their flints are picked; they bend their eyes upon the fore-sight, and anon they bring the hind-sight to a level, and long to be permitted "to pull tricker," for they see the "varmint's eye." But their officers whisper, "Not yet." A few more short breaths, and "Fire," is the loud command. A glare of red lightning streams along that low earthen ridge, and the curling smoke hangs for a moment like a curtain of death between the combatants; then a breeze lifts it, and the front ranks of the British are sunk as if the earth had opened; but not so, for they lie and bleed on her bosom. The red tide of life has crimsoned the green grass. The air is rent with yells, and screams, and curses, and prayers, and death-groans! The whole British force vacillates as if on a point; the officers urge on the men, but urge in vain.

A moment, and they fly in swift retreat. Then the crouching Yankee soldier straightens himself, and his long, loud hurra is responded to by one longer and louder from all the windows, balconies and steeples in Boston.

But the limits assigned to this little work will not admit of a full description of this battle scene. A second charge was immediately made by the British, but with no better success than the first; and during the second attack they set fire to Charlestown. This conflagration added greatly to the terror and sublimity of the scene. The Americans, after the second victory, found their ammunition exhausted; yet they stood their ground and most heroically awaited the onset. Many of them had no means of defence, except the butts of their guns. After making a stout resistance, they retreated slowly and in good order, feeling that while they left that bloody spot to the enemy, they themselves, substantially bore off the palm of victory. The British lost in killed and wounded 1500 men; the Americans but 450.

## THE EXPEDITION TO CANADA.

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LEXINGTON, Ticonderoga, and Bunker's Hill, had each lightened the American spirit of a portion of that burden of uncertainty, suspense, and anxiety, which at first weighed on the hearts of the colonists, in view of measuring strength with the mother country, in the field of battle. They had been branded as cowards, and though they felt this to be false, yet while they could not prove it to be so by experiment, the charge was annoying. Washington, having been appointed commander-in chief of the American army, had arrived at Boston. The councils of both state and war began to assume more of system. The great military thoroughfare leading into the most vulnerable part of the colonies was that by the St. Lawrence and the Champlain waters. The fortresses guarding this route were known to be weakly garrisoned. To gain the Canadians over to the cause of revolution was likewise an object. Against considerable opposition of opinion in the American council, it was at length resolved to carry on an offensive expedition against the British authorities and forces in Canada.

Philip Schuyler, of Albany, had been appointed Major General, by the second Continental Congress, and placed at the head of the northern department of the American army. The plan adopted for invading Canada was by

two routes, first by lake Champlain and the river Sorel ; and secondly, by the Kennebec, across the mountain wilderness of Maine. An army of three thousand men were to operate on the former route, and another of one thousand on the latter. Major General Schuyler was commander-in-chief of the whole expedition ; while to the first of these armaments, Brigadier General Montgomery was assigned, and to the second, Brigadier General Arnold.

On the 26th of August, General Montgomery took his departure from Crown Point, and on the fifth of September arrived at Isle au Noix, situated at the entrance of the waters of the lake into the river Sorel. Major General Schuyler arrived on the same day, and preparations were immediately made for besieging the fortress of St. John. After a few days, General Schuyler having become sick, returned to Albany, where he remained the rest of the campaign.

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### ST. JOHN'S.

GENERAL MONTGOMERY now being left in command of the military operations in this quarter, immediately marched against St. John's. Being but illy supplied with ammunition and military equipments, his progress was slow ; meanwhile, he sent Colonel Allen, the hero of Ticonderoga, with a party of eighty men, to negotiate with a tribe of Indians in that region. Allen, having accomplished his mission, was returning, when he met Major Brown with a small party of men, who had been ranging the country on a tour of observation. These chivalrous

characters, with more bravery than prudence, concocted a scheme to unite their forces and march immediately to the attack of Montreal. Accordingly, when they arrived at that town, which is situated on an island in the St. Lawrence, they made an agreement to cross the river simultaneously at opposite points, thus dividing the attention of the defenders, and to take the town by surprise. But some event occurred to prevent Brown's crossing at the time appointed. When Allen reached the destined shore, he found no aid at hand from his colleague; but never having known fear, he rashly attempted to maintain his ground. But Governor Carleton, perceiving his weakness, marched out against him with several hundred men. Being overpowered, the redoubtable chief and all his men were captured. Carleton refusing to treat him as a prisoner of war, loaded him with chains and sent him to England.

The next feat performed by the Americans during the siege of St. John's was the capture of Chamble, a place feebly guarded, and situated a few miles below St. John's. Some artillery and one hundred and twenty barrels of gunpowder were obtained. This acquisition enabled Montgomery to prosecute the siege of St. John's with greater vigor. Governor Carleton, hearing of the critical situation of the troops in the besieged garrison, attempted to send a detachment to their relief. As this armament endeavored to cross the St. Lawrence at Longueil, near the mouth of the Sorel, they were defeated, and abandoned their object.

When the news of this relapse reached Montgomery, he sent a flag to Major Preston, who commanded the besieged fortress, summoning him to surrender, as all hope

of relief was cut off by Carleton's repulse, and further resistance could only lead to useless destruction of lives. The fortress was accordingly surrendered, on the third of November, and soon entered by the American troops.

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### MONTREAL.

GVERNOR CARLETON now abandoned Montreal to its fate, and made his escape down the river during the night, in a small canoe, with muffled oars. The next day General Montgomery, after engaging to allow the inhabitants their own laws, the free exercise of their religion, and the privilege of governing themselves, entered the town. This benevolent conduct induced many to join his standard, yet some of his own army deserted on account of the severity of the climate; and many whose time of enlistment had expired, insisted on returning home.

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### QUEBEC.

AT the time the events were transpiring of which we have just given an account, Arnold, at the head of the other department of the expedition, was making his world-renowned passage through the wilderness of Maine. With about eleven hundred men, he marched from Cambridge to Newburyport, where they embarked on eleven transports, and sailed for the Kennebec, September 18th, 1775. Having a

safe passage, they entered the mouth of the Kennebec sailed up that river without material difficulty, and arrived at the town of Gardiner. This being the termination of ship navigation, the army and its appendages were transported in two hundred batteaux prepared for the purpose. The difficulties that now commenced are succinctly stated in the following paragraph.

Eleven hundred men, with arms, ammunition, and all the apparatus of war, burdened with provisions for their sustenance, and clothing to protect them from the inclemencies of the weather, were to pass through a region uninhabited, wild and desolate; forcing their batteaux against a strong current, and carrying them and their contents on their own shoulders, around rapids and cataracts, over craggy precipices, and through morasses, till they should reach the French settlements on the Canada frontier, a distance of more than two hundred miles. With inconceivable toil and suffering, they at length reached the summit. Every relic of food was now consumed, and they were still thirty miles from any human habitation. Ever animated by the presence of their commander, he himself so incomparable for endurance, they summoned the last energies of nature, and pushed forward. Descending the Chaudiere, they reached the French settlements, and found a termination to their incredible sufferings.

On the 9th of November, they arrived at Point Levi, opposite Quebec. The people of that city were struck with almost as much surprise as if beings from another world had there made a descent, when they beheld this haggard army emerge from the wilderness. Could Arnold have immediately passed the river while the panic prevailed, there is no doubt but the city would have fallen into his

hands. But the weather was unpropitious, and the authorities in Quebec had, by some means, received sufficient warning to remove the boats to the opposite shore, so that it was several days before Arnold could attempt a passage. This at length he undertook in the night, and with about five hundred men gained the opposite bank of the river, and ascended the rocky precipice, at the same place where Wolf and his gallant followers, many years before, had climbed.

But of this attempt of Arnold to surprise the city, the British had received timely notice, and were prepared to meet him. When day dawned, Arnold drew up his little band on the heights of Abraham, and approaching near the walls, gave three cheers, but was answered by a shower of cannon balls, which compelled him to retreat, and abandon the enterprise for that time. He retired about twenty miles up the river, to wait at a place called Point aux Trembles, for the arrival of Montgomery.

On the 4th of December, General Montgomery made his appearance ; but he brought with him only the shadow of an army, his force being reduced to three hundred men. Unutterable were the tenderness and satisfaction, with which these two heroic Generals met. After distributing some woolen clothes and other much needed comfort among the men ; they immediately proceeded to take a position before Quebec.

After some experiments had been made and a council of war held, it was determined to attempt the city by a “coup de main.” It was resolved to make an attack by night, and upon the lower town. According to this arrangement, the movement began between three and four

o'clock in the morning, from the heights of Abraham. Two columns advanced upon the lower town for the purpose of real attack, headed by Montgomery and Arnold, while a series of demonstrations or feigned attacks were to be made upon the upper town. Amidst a terrible snow-storm, the columns took up their fearful march. Montgomery led his department along the road, lying upon the river's edge. The obstructions made by the snow were increased by vast blocks of ice, heaped up from the river. Montgomery, with his own hands, aided in making a path through the snow and ice, and lead the way; his men one by one scrambled after. At length they reached the first barrier, which was vigorously attacked and speedily carried. A moment was now employed in exciting the soldiers. "Men of New York," exclaimed Montgomery, "you will not fear to follow where your general leads." At that instant a British soldier returned to a loaded cannon that had been abandoned, and touching it with a match, it discharged, and struck General Montgomery dead on the spot. His men pushed their fearful labor no further. General Arnold about the same time received a severe wound, and was borne out of the action. Colonel Morgan succeeded to the command of Arnold's department, and prosecuted the assault with untold courage, until he and the men he heroically led on were overwhelmed and all captured.

## CONCLUDING EVENTS OF THE CANADA EXPEDITION.

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THE first year of the war closed with the death of Montgomery, and failure of the attempt upon Quebec. After this defeat, Arnold, wounded as he was, retired with the remainder of the army to the distance of about three miles, where he passed the rigors of a Canada winter, under most terrible privations and sufferings. He also reduced the city to very straitened circumstances, by cutting off the supplies of provisions and otherwise harassing it. In the spring, Congress sent General Thomas from Boston, to succeed Arnold in command. This officer deemed it proper to make one more attempt to reduce Quebec, before abandoning it. But this likewise proved a failure. The river being clear of ice, the British fleet now came in sight, bringing reinforcement to the garrison. General Thomas was necessitated hastily to retreat, having much baggage and many sick and wounded, which fell into the hands of the enemy.

The Americans continued their retreat to the river Sorel, where they met General Thompson with reinforcements. Here General Thomas was attacked by the small pox, of which he died, and the command devolved upon General Sullivan. Adverse fortune now seemed to pursue the Americans. A garrison of about four hundred men

at the Cedars on the river above Montreal, fell into the hands of the enemy, through the cowardice of Colonel Bel del. The arrival of British troops had now augmented the numbers of the enemy to about 13,000, They had made a place of rendezvous at Three Rivers, a village half way between Quebec and Montreal.

General Sullivan detached General Thompson with two hundred men, to attack the British at Three Rivers. But failing to reach his destination under cover of night, he was defeated and captured, with all his men. The whole American forces now retreated over lake Champlain, leaving all to the possession of a victorious enemy, and arrived at the post of Crown Point on the 15th of June, 1776.

## E V A C U A T I O N   O F   B O S T O N .

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GENERAL WASHINGTON, who had taken command of the American army at Boston, soon after the battle of Bunker's Hill, had continued the blockade of that city. At length it was resolved to bring the enemy to action, or to drive them from the town. Accordingly on the night of the fourth of March, 1776, General Thomas was put at the head of a detachment, and silently crossed the neck of land which separates Dorchester hights from the main land, and constructed a redoubt, which commanded the hights and threatened the British shipping. Gen. Howe, by the first light of morning, discovered the advantage which the Americans had gained, perceived that there was no alternative left, but either to dislodge them or to evacuate the town. A few regiments were immediately dispatched to attempt the former, but a violent storm of wind and rain prevented their crossing. The Americans meanwhile continued to strengthen their works, until they were too secure to be easily forced. A council of war was then held by the British in which it was determined to evacuate the town. On the morning of the seventeenth, the whole English army together with their royalist friends who chose to follow their fortunes, sailed for Halifax. As the rear of the British troops were embarking, Gen. Washington, leading the American army, entered the city in triumph.

## CHARLESTON.

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AMONG the momentous results that followed the numerous transactions of the first year of the war, one, not the least in importance, was that Great Britain had learned that the Americans were not cowards. This conviction and change of sentiment in the English government, produced a corresponding change of measures. Instead of sending a few regulars to our shores to shake their ram-rods and rattle their cartouch boxes at a flock of ragged Yankees, and frighten them all into the woods, and thus forever crush the rebellion, they now believed it necessary to meet the case with a vast and well organized military force. A force was deemed needful, larger than the British nation was capable of furnishing, of native troops. They consequently hired a large number of mercenaries from the German powers. It was intended that this armament should consist of fifty thousand men, and be prepared to embark for the American coasts early in the year, 1776. This invading force was to be divided into three grand departments. The first under the command of General Burgoyne to penetrate the American territory in the north, the second under General and Admiral Howe to invade the middle colonies; and the third under General Clinton and Sir Peter Parker to attack the south. The Americans on their part as evidence

how much they were frightened by all this gathering tempest, displayed for the first time the flag of the "stars and stripes," and spread before an on-looking world and high heaven, their immortal DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE. Thus did both sides cast the gauntlet, while the cloud of war hung blackening and ready to burst upon the heads of our forefathers. Charleston the capital of South Carolina, was destined to feel the first regular effort of this formidable military force, prepared at great cost by Great Britain to crush the liberties of her colonies. The following account of the battle at Fort Moultrie, is given by that superior historian, Mrs. Willard.

"In the beginning of June, the British fleet under Sir Peter Parker, came to anchor in the harbor of Charleston, where it was joined by Gen. Clinton who had been waiting its arrival at Cape Fear. Fortunately, an official letter had been intercepted, early in the year, announcing the departure of this armament for England, and its destination against the southern states. This gave the colonists an opportunity to be prepared for its reception. Sullivan's Island at the entrance of Charleston harbor, had been strengthened, and a fort constructed with the palmetto tree, which resembles very much the cork. On learning the near approach of the enemy, the militia of the country were summoned to defend the capital. The popularity of Gen. Lee, the commander soon collected a force of five or six thousand men, and his high military reputation gave confidence to the citizens as well as to the soldiers. Under him were Colonels, Gadsden, Moultrie, and Thompson. Colonel Gadsden commanded a regiment stationed on the northern extremity of James' Island, two regiments under Colonels, Moultrie and

Thompson occupied the extremity of Sullivan's Island. The remainder of the troops were posted at various places.

"General Clinton landed a number of his troops on Long Island, separated from Sullivan's Island on the eastern side by a small creek. The fort on Sullivan's Island was garrisoned by about 400 men commanded by Colonel Moultrie. The attack on this fort commenced on the morning of the 28th of June. The ships opened their several broadsides, upon it ; and a detachment was landed on an adjoining island, and directed to pass over where the sea was fordable and attack it in the rear. The discharge of artillery upon this little fort was incessant ; but Moultrie and his brave Carolinians returned the fire with such skill and spirit, that many of the ships suffered severely, and the British, after persisting in their attack until dark, were repulsed and forced to abandon the enterprise. Their loss amounted to about two hundred, that of the Americans to twenty."

## BATTLE OF LONG ISLAND.

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THE first year of the war, with its successful and adverse fortunes, served to elicit the energies of the Americans and teach them confidence in themselves; the second, with its terrible disasters, was perhaps not less useful, in teaching them, that not courage alone, but discipline also, was indispensable in the day of regular battle. Besides, the second was a gloomy school, in which the Americans took deep lessons in the grace of perseverance under affliction.

General Howe arrived at Staten Island on the 10th of June, but it was not until the 26th of August that he commenced active operations by an attack on Long Island, on the western part of which, a respectable force of Americans commanded by General Sullivan, occupied an intrenched camp. Their position was protected in front by a range of hills stretching across the Island from the Narrows (a strait which separates it from Staten Island,) to the town of Jamaica situated on the southern coast. Over the hills in question passed three defensible roads, each of which was guarded by eight hundred men. The pass by the Narrows was attacked and carried by General Grant; the second road by Flatbush was cleared by General De Heister, in retreating before whom the Americans were encountered by General Clinton,

who with the right wing of the British army had made a detour by Jamaica. Thus the provincials were driven into their lines with the loss of upwards of one thousand men, while the British loss did not amount to more than four hundred and fifty. During the engagement Washington had sent strong reinforcements into Long Island and at its close he repaired thither in person, with the greater part of his army. This movement had nearly occasioned his ruin. He soon found himself cooped up in a corner with a superior force in front, prepared to attack his works, which were untenable. In these circumstances his only safety lay in retreat. It was a difficult operation to convey a whole army across the ferry in presence of an enemy, whose working parties could be heard by his sentries. But favored by the darkness of the night and by a fog which arose in the morning, he transported the whole of his forces to New York, leaving nothing behind him but some heavy cannon.

## WHITE PLAINS.

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ON the 15th of September, General Howe effected a landing on the Island of New York, and compelled Washington to evacuate the city and retire to the north end of the island. On the 16th, a considerable body of British troops appeared in the plain between the two armies. Washington ordered Colonel Knowlton and Major Leach with a detachment to get into the rear while he amused them with preparations to attack them in front. The plan succeeded, and although Colonel Knowlton was killed, the rencontre was favorable to the Americans, particularly as it served in some degree to restore that confidence in themselves, which their preceding misfortunes had destroyed.

The British commander manœvred with great address to bring Washington to a general engagement; but failing of this, he endeavored to destroy the communication with the eastern states, and cut off his supply of provisions from that quarter. To effect this, it was necessary to occupy the two roads leading east. The one on the coast they secured with little difficulty; but to occupy the more inland road, it was necessary to get possession of that part of the Highlands called White Plains. Washington, aware of their object, removed his own force to that place, where, on the 28th of October, he was attacked

by the British and Hessians under Generals Howe, Clinton, Knyphausen, and De Heister. A partial engagement ensued in which the loss on both sides was considerable. In this engagement Washington had the advantage of having his army partially intrenched, and the main part of his troops had not been fairly engaged in the contest, when night came on and caused it to cease. The combatants encamped in sight of each other. During the night, Washington took the opportunity to strengthen his works expecting a renewal of the battle in the morning. When daylight came, Howe reconnoitered the position of his enemy, and thought it prudent not to bring on the engagement, until he received reinforcements. On the succeeding night, Washington broke up his camp, moved higher up the Hudson, and finally crossed over to the west side of the river. General Howe perceiving that his enemy declined an engagement, discontinued the pursuit, and turned his attention to the reduction of Fort Washington, on the island of New York.

## TRENTON AND PRINCETON.

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GENERAL Howe attacked and took Fort Washington, in which he made two thousand seven hundred men prisoners, at the cost, however, of one thousand two hundred men on his side killed and wounded. Fort Lee was shortly after evacuated by its garrison, and taken possession of by Lord Cornwallis. Following up his success, General Howe pursued the flying Americans to Newark, and from Newark to New Brunswick, and from New Brunswick successively to Princeton and Trenton, till at length he drove them to the Pennsylvania side of the Delaware. Nothing could exceed the distress which the American army suffered during this retreat through the Jerseys. They were destitute of blankets and shoes, and their clothing was reduced to rags. They were coldly looked upon by the inhabitants, who gave up the cause of America for lost, and hastened to make their peace with the victors. Had General Howe been able to maintain his discipline in his army, Jersey would have been severed from the Union. But fortunately for the interests of Congress, his troops indulged in all the excesses of military violence, and irritated the inhabitants of the country to such a degree, that their new-born loyalty was speedily extinct, and all their thoughts were bent upon revenge.

On the arrival of Washington at the Delaware, his

troops had dwindled down to the number of three thousand; but having received some reinforcements of Pennsylvania militia, he determined to endeavor to retrieve his fortune by a decisive stroke. The British troops were cantoned in Burlington, Bordentown, and Trenton, waiting for the formation of the ice to cross into Pennsylvania. Understanding that in the confidence produced by a series of successes they were by no means vigilant, Washington conceived the possibility of taking them by surprise. He accordingly, on the evening of Christmas day, conveyed the main body of his army over the Delaware, and falling upon the troops quartered in Trenton, killed and captured about nine hundred of them, then re-crossed to Pennsylvania with his prisoners. On the 28th of December he again took possession of Trenton, where he was soon encountered by a superior force of British, who drove in his advanced parties, and entered the town in the evening, with the intention of giving him battle the next day. The two armies were separated only by a narrow creek, which runs through the town. In such a position it would seem impossible that any movement by the one or the other could pass unobserved. But in the darkness of the night, Washington, leaving his fires lighted and a few guards to attract the attention of the enemy, quitted his encampment, and crossing a bridge over the creek, which had been left unguarded, directed his march to Princeton, where, in a short but brisk engagement, he killed sixty of the British, and took three hundred prisoners. The rest were dispersed, and fled in different directions.

Great was the surprise of Lord Cornwallis, who commanded the British army at Trenton, when the report of the artillery at Princeton, which he at first mistook for

thunder, and the arrival of breathless messengers, apprised him that the enemy was in his rear. Alarmed by the danger of his position, he commenced a retreat ; and being harassed by the militia and the countrymen who had suffered from the outrages perpetrated by his troops on their advance, he did not deem himself in safety till he arrived at Brunswick, from whence, by means of the Raritan, he had a communication with New-York.

This splendid success inspired the Americans with renewed spirits. Recruits were readily raised for their army, which took up its winter quarters at Morristown.

## BURGOYNE'S EXPEDITION.

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GENERAL BURGOYNE arrived at Quebec on the 6th of May, 1777, and immediately putting himself at the head of his army, proceeded up lake Champlain to Crown Point. After collecting a large body of Indian allies, he directed his march toward Ticonderoga. General St. Clair, who was commander of this fortress, called a council of war, and for want of sufficient supplies of men and munitions, it was resolved to evacuate the fort. The Americans retreated by two routes, the one by way of Hubbardton, the other proceeding up lake Champlain in a flotilla. The latter of these was pursued, overtaken, and routed, by Burgoyne himself.

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## BATTLE OF HUBBARDTON.

THE other division had proceeded as far as Hubbardton, where they halted to refresh themselves and rally the dispersed. But the English were not idle. General Frazer, at the head of a strong detachment of grenadiers and light troops, commenced an eager pursuit by land, upon the right bank of Wood Creek. General Reidesel behind him, rapidly advanced with his Brunswickers, either to support the English, or to act separately, as occasion might

require. At five o'clock on the morning of the 7th of July, the English column under General Frazer made its appearance. The Americans were strongly fortified, and appeared disposed to defend themselves. Frazer, though inferior in point of numbers, had great confidence in the valor of his troops. He also expected every moment to be joined by General Reidesel, and being apprehensive that the enemy might escape if he delayed, he ordered the attack immediately. The battle was long and sanguinary. The Americans, being commanded by valiant officers, behaved with great spirit and firmness, but the English displayed an equal obstinacy. After several shocks with alternate success, the latter began to fall back in disorder. Their leaders rallied them anew, and led them to a furious charge with the bayonet, which shook the Americans by its impetuosity. At this critical moment General Reidesel arrived at the head of his column, composed of light troops and some grenadiers. He immediately took part in the action. The Americans, overpowered by numbers, fled on all sides, leaving their brave commander, with many other officers and upwards of two hundred soldiers, dead on the field. About the same number, besides Colonel Hale and seventeen officers of inferior rank, were made prisoners. Above six hundred were supposed to be wounded, many of whom, deprived of all succor, perished miserably in the woods. The loss of the royal troops in killed and wounded amounted to about one hundred and eighty.

## BENNINGTON.

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THE whole American forces in this quarter were, at this time, defeated and miserably scattered before their pursuers. They were at length driven from every post on lakes Champlain and George. General Schuyler, with all his energies, endeavored to succor his desponding army. He rallied and collected them at Fort Edward, on the Hudson. He sent parties to obstruct the road, along which Burgoyne was to march. This he did by felling immense trees across the road, leading through a desolate wilderness, between Fort Ann and Fort Edward. These and many other difficulties caused so much waste of time, that the British army began to be straitened for want of provisions. General Burgoyne therefore dispatched Colonel Baum, with five hundred men, to the town of Bennington, where he understood the provincials had collected large stores.

The Americans, who stood upon their guard at Bennington, were seasonably informed of his approach. Colonel Stark, who had lately arrived with a corps of New-Hampshire militia, commanded in that town. He sent with all speed to request Colonel Warner, who, since the defeat of Hubbardton, had taken post at Manchester, to march to his assistance. These troops, together with some of the neighboring militia, amounted to about two thou-

sand men. Upon intelligence that the enemy approached, Colonel Stark detached Colonel Gregg upon the lookout, supposing at first that it might be only a party of savages, who were scouring the country. When he had discovered that they were regular troops, he fell back to the principal position at Bennington. Lieutenant Colonel Baum, on his part, having learned that the enemy were too strong to be attacked by his present force without temerity, sent immediately to Colonel Breyman, who was bringing on a reserve, apprising him of his situation and pressing him to hasten to his succor. In the meantime he took an excellent post about four miles from Bennington, and there intrenched himself.

But Stark, not choosing to wait for the junction of the two parties, determined to attack him. Accordingly, on the morning of the 16th, he issued from Bennington, and advanced with his troops divided into several corps, in order to surround the posts of Baum, and attack him on all sides at once. The latter, on seeing the Americans approach, persuaded himself that they were bodies of loyalists coming to join him. Having at length discovered his error, he defended himself with great valor. But such was the impetuosity, and even the superiority of the Americans, that he could not resist them long; having carried all before them, and taken his two pieces of cannon, they poured on every side into his intrenchments. The savages, Canadians, and British marksmen, profiting by their activity, escaped into the woods. The German dragoons still kept together, and when their ammunition was expended, were bravely led by their commander to charge with their swords. But they were soon over-

whelmed, and the survivors, among whom was their wounded Colonel, were made prisoners.

Soon after, Colonel Breyman, not aware of the fate of his companions, came up with the reinforcement. Another sharp conflict ensued, but he also was speedily routed, with great loss of arms and men. The whole loss of the British was seven hundred men, most of whom were made prisoners; also much baggage fell into the hands of the victors. This battle served greatly to revive the spirit of the Americans.

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### SARATOGA.

FOUR circumstances concurred to change the tide of victory during the Saratoga campaign. The success of the Americans at Bennington restored their confidence in their own ability to contend with regular troops of the enemy in open field battle. This also broke the continued chain of victories that had attended Burgoyne's career. The second circumstance was the appointment of Gates to succeed Schuyler in command. General Schuyler, although popular with the people of his own colony, that of New-York, was not so in New England. Although the deepest gloom had hung over the American arms under Schuyler, yet at the period of his being displaced a brighter day was beginning to dawn. He bitterly complained to Washington that the course of his fortune was interrupted, and that the fruit of his toils was given to another, who was about to enjoy that victory for which he had prepared the way. Nevertheless, Schuyler, like a

good citizen as he was, did not slacken his hand in aiding the cause in every way now left in his power. But the unquestionable military talents and universal popularity of Gates enkindled anew the ardor of his countrymen, and they flocked to his standard in great numbers. The third cause that excited a reaction in favor of the Americans was the tragical fate of Miss McCrea; and the fourth was the failure of the expedition under Colonel St. Leger. This officer commanded a department of British troops, destined to co-operate with the army of Burgoyne, by marching from the country of lake Ontario, and reaching the Hudson by way of the valley of the Mohawk. On this route was situated a strong American fortification called Fort Stanwix, otherwise Fort Schuyler. While Gansevoort, the commander of this fort, was besieged by St. Leger, General Herkimer, in marching a considerable force for its relief, was ambushed by a detachment of British and Indians from the besiegers. Herkimer was killed, and his party defeated. News of this disaster having reached the Hudson, Schuyler dispatched Arnold, with a strong force, for the succor of Fort Stanwix. The news of the approach of this American lion in war, struck the besiegers with such terror, that they did not await his arrival, but raised the siege, and precipitately fled back in the direction of lake Ontario. Thus Burgoyne was cut short in his hopes of a junction with St. Leger, while the Americans were relieved from fears of disaster in that quarter, and greatly animated by the manner in which the affair had resulted.

Burgoyne, not without some incipient apprehensions of adverse fortune, determined to transfer his army from Fort Edward to the right bank of the Hudson, and thus

proceed to Albany. Meanwhile, Gates, whose army had been daily augmenting, quitted his camp near the mouth of the Mohawk, and advancing up the river, also on the right bank, took a position at Stillwater, within three miles of the army of Burgoyne. It now became evident that a pitched battle must ensue. Officers of the highest military talent and reputation commanded in both armies. Everything was now at stake; with one as well as with the other army. The ground was level for about half a mile from the river, and then gently ascended into hills. On the 19th of September the two armies were drawn up confronting each other in battle array. The following was the disposition of the battle. The English right wing rested upon some high grounds, which rise gradually from the river; it was flanked by the grenadiers and light infantry, who occupied the hills. At some distance in front and upon the side of these were posted the Indians, Canadians and loyalists, who had still remained in the camp. The left wing and artillery, under Generals Philips and Reidesel, kept along the great road and meadows by the river side. The American army drew up in the same order, from the Hudson to the hills. Gates had taken the right, and given the left to Arnold. Smart skirmishes immediately ensued between the foremost marksmen of either army. Morgan, with his light-horse, and Colonel Durbin, with his light infantry, had attacked and routed the Canadians and savages, but the latter having been supported, they were both in their turn compelled to resume their place in the line. Meanwhile Burgoyne, either intending to turn the left flank of the Americans, or wishing to avoid them by passing higher up the hollows of the torrents which fall into the Hudson, ex-

tended his right wing upon the heights, in order to fall upon Arnold in flank and rear.

But Arnold was at the same time endeavoring to execute a similar manœuvre upon him, while neither of them was able, on account of the woods, to perceive the movements of his enemy.

The two parties met. General Frazer repulsed the Americans, and in his turn was driven back. Thus, with alternate success, the day of that dreadful battle proceeded. The main bodies of the two armies did not come into close conflict, but were continually occupied in sending succor to their respective parties on the hills. Thus the bloody encounter continued, without any decisive advantage, till night separated the combatants. Each claimed the victory. The English encamped on the battle ground. The Americans retired a little in the rear; but they were greatly the gainers in spirit, as they had stood the shock of this boasted regular army. The British had lost in killed and wounded about five hundred; the other side not more than three hundred. But now circumstances of the most serious difficulty began to gather round the condition of Burgoyne. If he could not proceed, destruction was inevitable; for from the country around, new supplies of men flocked in to augment Gates' army, by hundreds and by thousands. He had thrown large forces across to the left bank, to oppose Burgoyne, should he attempt to cross, and by that means escape.

On the 7th of October another bloody battle occurred, very much resembling that just noticed, only that the British were more decidedly discomfited. One only hope of their deliverance now remained, which was that reinforcements, sent by General Clinton up the Hudson,

might arrive in time for their rescue. But at length their provisions failed, and no relief by way of reinforcements came.

On the 17th of October, 1777, General Burgoyne capitulated, surrendering his entire army prisoners of war. The troops captured amounted to nine thousand two hundred and thirteen men. Thirty-five pieces of cannon were also taken, and five thousand muskets, as well as a large amount of other military stores.

## BRANDYWINE.

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WHILE the momentous events were transpiring with regard to the army of Burgoyne in the north, a career of military affairs not less important was going forward in the Middle States, between the armies of General Washington and General Howe. Early in the summer of 1777, Admiral and General Howe were at sea, undecided, whether to enter the Delaware, or to take the route of the Chesapeake bay, in order to march against Philadelphia. Washington called out the militia of the neighboring colonies, and made every possible preparation to defend the capital. On the 27th of August, the British army, eighteen thousand strong, having passed up the Chesapeake, was disembarked not far from the head of Elk river. General Washington's army was equal neither in numbers nor discipline to that of the enemy; yet he determined not to surrender the capital of his country without a battle. Early in the morning of the 11th of September, the British army marched directly to the Americans, who had taken post on the north-east bank of the Brandywine. Howe had formed his men into two columns; the right commanded by General Knyphausen, and the left by Lord Cornwallis. His plan was, that while the first should make repeated feints to attempt the passage of Chadsford, in order to occupy the

attention of the republicans, the second should take a long circuit to the upper part of the river, and cross at a place where it is divided into two shallow streams. After some preliminaries of battle, Knyphausen appeared determined to pass the ford. He stormed and kept up an incredible noise, by means of which the attention of the Americans was fully occupied in the neighborhood of Chadsford. Meanwhile, Lord Cornwallis, at the head of the second column, took a circuitous march to the left, and gained, unperceived the forks of the Brandywine. By this means, he passed the stream about two o'clock, and turning down the left bank, fell upon the Americans with great impetuosity. Washington had received intelligence of this movement about noon, and immediately decided for the most judicious though boldest measure : this was, to pass the river with the centre and left wing of his army, and overwhelm Knyphausen by a furious attack. Accordingly, he ordered General Sullivan to pass the Brandywine with his division at an upper ford, and attack the left of Knyphausen, while he in person should cross lower down, and fall upon the right of that general. They were both already in motion to execute this design, when a second report arrived, which represented what had really taken place as false, or in other words, that the enemy had not crossed the two branches of the river, and that he had not made his appearance upon the right flank of the American troops. Deceived by this false intelligence, Washington desisted, and Greene, who had already passed with the vanguard, was ordered back. In the midst of these uncertainties, the commander-in-chief at length received the positive assurance, not only that the English had appeared on the left bank, but also that they were

about to fall with great force upon the right wing of the Americans. From the unfortunate results of this mistake, the army of Washington could not recover, though the Americans fought long and hard, under such brave commanders as Stephens, Stirling, Sullivan, Green, and Washington himself. Lafayette was also in this battle, in which he was wounded. About dark, the whole American army retreated, and reached Chester that night. The British encamped on the battle ground. The loss of the republicans was nine hundred killed and wounded; that of the royal army about five hundred. The next day the army of Washington passed through the city of Philadelphia, in detached parties, leaving the capital exposed to the occupation of the victors.

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## GERMANTOWN.

AFTER the battle of Brandywine, the Congress removed from Philadelphia to Lancaster, and General Washington was invested with dictatorial power. The loss of the battle of Brandywine did not throw the Americans into such dejection as might have been expected, and as the British confidently hoped. Washington immediately rallied his scattered forces, and stood on the defensive. Before the army of Howe arrived at Philadelphia, Washington marched out as far as the town of Goshen, determining to give battle. The advanced parties had already met, when there came up so violent a fall of rain, that the soldiers were forced to cease their fire. Wash-

ington re-crossed the Schuylkill, and encamped on the Perkyomey creek.

About this time, Howe ascertained by his ships that Wayne, with one thousand five hundred men, was lying in the woods, near his rear, intending to fall on him by surprise. Determined to take the start, the British general, in the dead of night, detached a party, who falling upon Wayne unawares, put vast numbers of his men to the bayonet, and entirely routed the party. The way now being open, the British proceeded to occupy Philadelphia.

A large part of the British army encamped at Germantown, a considerable village about six miles north of Philadelphia. To this division Washington determined to give battle; the following account of which is in the language of Mrs. Willard. "Washington left his camp at Shippack creek, at seven in the evening. The approach of the Americans was discovered by the British patrols. Washington's army commenced the attack about sunrise. Fortune at first favored the arms of the Americans, and the British were compelled to retreat. But Colonel Musgrove having thrown several companies into a stone house, they so annoyed the Americans, that the pursuit was delayed. The Pennsylvania militia did not all perform the duty assigned them. A thick fog coming on, caused confusion in the American ranks. The British, thus enabled to recover from the first attack, aroused to fresh exertions; and the Americans were defeated. Their loss was two hundred killed, among whom was General Nash, of North Carolina; six hundred wounded,

and four hundred taken prisoners. The British loss was five hundred; among their killed were Colonels Agnew and Bird. The American army saved all its artillery, and retreated the same day about twenty miles to Perkyomey creek.

The Congress expressed in decided terms their approbation, both of the plan of the enterprise, and the courage with which it was executed, for which their thanks were given to the General and his army.

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### MONMOUTH.

THE important transactions of the year 1777 were brought to a close by the two armies taking winter quarters; the British in Philadelphia, and the Americans at Valley Forge. Three years of the war had now passed, and the fourth was about to open under a new and very different aspect. The result of Burgoyne's campaign had produced a deep sensation in most of the courts of Europe, and wrought quite a change in their political views. France up to this time had been well pleased to see Great Britain and her American colonies waste their energies in hostility against each other; yet it was not until the present juncture that she consented openly to espouse the cause of the latter country. On the 6th of February, 1778, the Court of Versailles formed a definitive treaty of alliance with the United States of America. In this treaty it was agreed that the fleets and armies of

France should immediately proceed to America, and take an active part in the contest for American liberty.

As soon as the news of this treaty reached the British Government, among the many causes of excitement which it there produced, was a deep solicitude for their army in Philadelphia. Should the French fleet enter the Delaware bay, and thus cut off the chance of escape in that direction, and at the same time the united armies invest the city by land, there was good cause to apprehend a result for the army of Howe similar to that of Burgoyne. Early in this year, Clinton was appointed to succeed Howe in the command of the army in Philadelphia, with orders to evacuate that city as soon as practicable. On the 18th of June, the army was in motion for its departure. They had determined on marching through New Jersey, in order to reach New York. General Washington, on hearing of this manœuvre of his enemy, immediately determined on annoying him. Accordingly he broke up his camp at Valley Forge, and followed close upon the march of the British army, which was much incumbered with baggage. The American commander, on his arrival at Princeton, hearing that General Clinton, with a large division of the British forces, had quitted the direct road to Staten Island, the place of rendezvous appointed for his army, and was marching for Sandy Hook, sent a detachment in pursuit of him, and followed with his whole army to support it; and as Clinton made preparations to meet the meditated encounter, he sent out reinforcements to bring on the engagement. This department was commanded by General Lee, whom Washington, on his ad-

vancing in person, met in full retreat. After a short and angry parley with the commander-in-chief, Lee returned and advanced against the enemy, but was again driven back. Clinton's forces now encountering the main body of the American army, were repulsed in their turn. Night put an end to the fighting. Taking advantage of the darkness, Clinton withdrew, and continued his march for Sandy Hook. The British lost six hundred men; the Americans very few. Many on both sides died from the excessive heat of the day.

## W Y O M I N G .

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"IN the campaign of this year," says Mrs. Willard, "the depredations committed by the savages were more frequent and more inhuman than ever. The ruthless chiefs who guided them in these sanguinary expeditions, were Butler and Brandt, beings capable of the most horrid deeds. The

devastation of the flourishing settlement of Wyoming by a band of Indians and tories, was marked by the most demoniac cruelties. This settlement consisted of eight towns on the bank of the Susquehannah, and was one of the most flourishing as well as delightful places in America. But even in this peaceful spot, the inhabitants were not exempt from the baneful influence of party spirit. Although the majority were devoted to the cause of their country, yet the loyalists were numerous. Several per-

sons had been arrested as tories and sent to the proper authorities for trial. This excited the indignation of their party, and they determined on revenge. They united with the Indians, and resorting to artifice, pretended a desire to cultivate peace with the inhabitants of Wyoming, while they were making every preparation for their meditated vengeance. The youth of Wyoming were at this time with the army, and but five hundred men capable of defending the settlement remained. The inhabitants had constructed four forts for their security, into which these men were distributed. In the month of July, sixteen hundred Indians and tories, under the command of Butler and Brandt, appeared on the banks of the Susquehannah. Two of the forts nearest the frontier immediately surrendered to them. The savages spared the women and children, but butchered the rest of their prisoners without exception. They then surrounded Kingston, the principal fort, and to dismay the garrison, hurled into the place two hundred scalps, still reeking with blood. Colonel Denisou, knowing it to be impossible to defend the fort, demanded of Butler what terms would be allowed the garrison if they surrendered ; he answered, "the hatchet." They attempted further resistance, but were soon compelled to surrender. Enclosing the men, women and children, in houses and barracks, they set fire to these, and the miserable wretches were all consumed.

"Wilksbarre, now the only remaining fort, learning the fate of the others, surrendered without resistance. But submission could not soften the hearts of these unfeeling monsters, and their atrocities were renewed. They then

devastated the country, burnt their dwellings, and consigned their crops to the flames. The tories appeared to surpass even the savages in barbarity. The nearest ties of consanguinity were disregarded; and it is ascertained that a mother was murdered by her own son. None escaped but a few women and children; and these, dispersed and wandering in the forests, without food and without clothes, were not the least worthy of commisera-tion.

## EVENTS OF THE LATTER PART OF 1778.

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EARLY in this year, a French fleet, commanded by the Count d'Estainge, was dispatched to America, with the design of blockading the British fleet in the Delaware. But Admiral Howe had already anticipated the scheme, and before the arrival of d'Estainge, had sailed for New York. The French fleet followed as far as Sandy Hook, but being unable to pass the bar at the entrance of New York bay, he was forced to abandon the design of a general engagement with the British fleet. About this time, General Sullivan undertook to expel the British from Newport. The plan was, that the French fleet should co-operate with Sullivan by attacking the British from the sea. The land forces, according to the plan agreed upon, had crossed the bay and landed on the island, on which the British army was posted. But at this juncture, the British fleet under command of Lord Howe, appeared in sight. D'Estainge immediately sailed out into the open sea to give him battle. This so relieved the British in Newport that no hope was left for the success of Sullivan. He retreated, and with great difficulty saved his army. While the commanders of the two hostile fleets were striving to get the advantage of position, and at the very moment when they were about to engage, a storm arose,

which parted the combatants, and greatly damaged their fleet.

This was the third enterprise in which the Americans had expected much from their new ally, and also the third time that they had been sorely disappointed. D'Estainge now put into Boston, in order to refit his shattered vessels. A growing dissatisfaction and coldness felt by the Americans towards their French allies began to threaten serious consequences; and at the same time kindled great hopes in the British that this dissatisfaction would increase to a rupture, and thus prove destructive to the republican cause. Finally, the fleet of d'Estainge left the coasts of the continent, and sailed for the West Indies, and in the latter part of November, Colonel Campbell was dispatched from New York by General Clinton, with a force of two thousand men against Georgia.

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### SAVANNAH TAKEN.

CLINTON, at the same time that he had despatched the armament for Georgia, by convoy of Commodore Hyde Parker, and under command of Colonel Campbell, ordered General Prevost, who commanded in the Floridas, to collect all the troops that could be spared from the defence of those provinces, and to march also against Georgia, in order that it might be attacked at once in front on the part of the sea, by Campbell, and in flank, on the banks of the Savannah river, by Prevost.

On the 29th of December, Commodore Hyde Parker reached his destination, the mouth of the Savannah river. The English moved up the river till they reached the usual landing place, at which commences a very narrow causeway that leads to the city. This post, extremely difficult of itself, might have been vigorously defended by the Americans; but surprised by an unexpected attack, or destitute of a sufficient force, they made no opposition to the landing the English. The causeway led through a rice swamp, which was flanked on each side by a deep ditch. The English were suffered to pass unmolested over this narrow defile, until they reached the high ground. Here stood a dwelling house, in which had been stationed a few companies of republicans. They received the van of the British with a smart fire, killing Captain Cameron, who commanded a company of Scotch Highlanders. His men were so incensed at the death of their leader, that they rushed forward with great rapidity. The Americans immediately fled, the English having seized the house, Colonel Campbell ascended to its summit in order to view the country.

He discovered the Americans drawn up about half a mile east of the town of Savannah. It was commanded by the American Gen. Howe, and appeared to make a firm stand to cover the Capital of the Province.

The British commander advanced directly towards the republican army. By the movements of the Americans he was not long in perceiving that they expected, and even desired, he should engage their left wing. He drew off a part of his men to act as a feint in that direction, in

order to keep up the delusion, but at the same time determined to make his strong attack upon the right wing of the enemy. Meanwhile, a negro fell into the hands of the British, by whom they learned that a path led to the left, by which they might advance under the cover of woods beyond the line of the republicans. Col. Campbell at once resolved to avail himself of this fortunate circumstance. He accordingly directed Sir James Baird to pursue with light infantry the indicated path, turn the right of the Americans, and fall by surprise upon their rear. This manœuvre was successfully executed, and at an appointed signal, a double attack was made, which instantly routed the Americans.

The loss of life in this conflict was small; but about 500 American prisoners, 48 pieces of cannon, 23 mortars, the fort with its ammunition and stores, the shipping in the river, a large quantity of provisions, with the capital of Georgia, were all in the hands of the conquerors before dark.

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### SAVANNAH RIVER.

SHORTLY after the capture of Savannah by Col. Campbell, Gen. Prevost arrived from Florida, and took command of the British forces in that province. The whole colony of Georgia now submitted to the conquerors, and was received under the protection of the British government.

Gen. Lincoln, about this time, was appointed to the command of the southern forces. He immediately col-

lected them on the north side of the Savannah river, intending, as soon as he should be able to collect a sufficient number of troops, to cross that river and oblige the enemy to evacuate the upper parts of Georgia. Gen. Prevost fell down the river, and encamped at Hudson's ferry. Lincoln detached Gen. Ashe, with 2,000 of the North Carolina militia, to take post on Briar creek, on the Georgia side of the Savannah. He was strongly situated, having the deep channel of Briar creek in front, and the Savannah river on his left flank. But Prevost, by superior generalship, so overreached the American officer as to gain an easy victory over him. He commenced a system of manœuvreing, by which he so held Gen. Lincoln in fear of being attacked, that he might not send reinforcements to Gen. Ashe; while he made a circuitous route of more than 50 miles, crossing Briar creek, high up, where it was fordable, and then descending on the left bank, fell unexpectedly on the flank and rear of the Carolinians, who made no resistance, but instantly fled. Vast numbers were drowned in the river, or swallowed up in the deep marsh, so that out of 2,000, only about 400 returned to the camp of Lincoln.

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### STONY POINT.

STONY POINT is a strong position on the Hudson river, between New York and West Point. There the English had labored with such industry as to reduce that rock to

the condition of a real fortress. Against this the Americans undertook an expedition, to use the language of an eminent historian, which afforded a brilliant demonstration, that so far from wanting courage, they could vie in boldness with the most celebrated nations of Europe. The garrison was furnished with sufficient number of troops; the stores were abundant; the defensive preparations formidable.

General Washington charged General Wayne with the attack of Stony Point, and General Howe (the American) with that of Verplank's. He provided the first with a strong detachment of the most enterprising veteran infantry in all his army.

These troops set out on their expedition on the 15th of July, and having accomplished their march over high mountains, through deep morasses, difficult defiles, and roads exceedingly bad and narrow, arrived about eight o'clock in the evening within a mile of Stony Point. General Wayne then halted to reconnoiter the works and to observe the situation of the garrison. The English, however, did not perceive him. He formed his corps into two columns, and put himself at the head of the right. It was preceded by a vanguard of a hundred and fifty picked men, commanded by that brave and adventurous Frenchman, Lieutenant Colonel Fleury. This vanguard was itself guided by a forlorn hope of about twenty, led by Lieutenant Gibbon. The column on the left, conducted by Major Stewart, had a similar vanguard, also preceded by a forlorn hope under Lieutenant Knox. These forlorn hopes were particularly intended to re-

move the abatis and other obstructions which lay in the way of the succeeding troops. General Wayne directed both columns to march in order and silence, with unloaded muskets and fixed bayonets. At midnight they arrived under the walls of the fort. The two columns attacked upon the flank, while Major Murfee engaged the attention of the garrison by a feint in their front. An unexpected obstacle presented itself; the deep morass which covered the works was at this time overflowed by the tide. The English opened a most tremendous fire of musketry and of cannon loaded with grape-shot; but neither the inundated morass, nor a double palisade, nor the bastioned ramparts, nor the storm of fire that was poured from them, could avert the impetuosity of the Americans; they opened their way with the bayonet, prostrated whatever opposed them, scaled the fort, and the two columns met in the centre of the works. General Wayne received a contusion in the head, by a musket ball, as he passed the last abatis. Colonel Fleury struck with his own hand the royal standard that waved upon the walls.

Of the forlorn hope of Gibbon, seventeen out of the twenty perished in the attack. The English lost upwards of six hundred men in killed and prisoners. The conquerors abstained from pillage, and from all disorder; a conduct the more worthy to be commended, as they had still present in mind the ravages and butcheries which their enemies had so recently committed in Carolina, in Connecticut, and in Virginia. Humanity imparted new fulgence to the victory which valor had obtained.

The attack meditated against Verplank's had not the

same success: General Howe encountered insurmountable obstacles. Meanwhile, Clinton had received intelligence of the capture of Stony Point; and being resolved not to suffer the Americans to establish themselves in that position, he instantly detached a corps of cavalry and light infantry to dislodge them. But Washington had attained his object; he had originally intended nothing more than to make himself master of the artillery and stores of the fort, to destroy the works, and to bring off the garrison. It was absolutely inconsistent with his views to risk a general action, in order to favor a partial operation; he therefore ordered General Wayne to retire, which he did successfully, after having dismantled the fortifications. The Congress decreed their acknowledgments to Washington and to Wayne, to Fleury, Stewart, Gibbon and Knox. They presented General Wayne with a medal of gold, which commemorated this brilliant achievement. Fleury and Stewart received a similar medal of silver. Not willing to leave the bravery of their soldiers without its retribution, they ordered an estimate of the military stores taken at Stony Point, and the value thereof to be shared among them.

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### SAVANNAH SEIGE RAISED.

SEVERAL encounters, with various success, had taken place between the forces of General Prevost and General Lincoln, who had been operating on both sides of the Sa-

vannah river, up to the middle of the summer of 1779, without much decided advantage to either. During the same period, the Count D'Estainge had been occupied in naval contests with the British fleet in the West Indies. At length, General Lincoln despatched a letter to D'Estainge, informing him, that as much advantage to the American arms had been expected from the alliance with France, and as yet none had occurred, there was therefore much dissatisfaction, in view of this subject, in the minds of the people of the United States. A short time previous to D'Estainge's receiving this letter, he had been ordered by the Court of France to repair, with his fleet to the coasts of Europe. Venturing to disobey the commands of his own government, on account of the pressing entreaties of the American General, he forthwith sailed for the coasts of the United States. Two objects now presented themselves as worthy the attention of this gallant naval officer. The one was to unite with the army of the republicans in the South, and recapture the town of Savannah; the other was, to advance as far as the waters of New York, and co-operate with Washington in rescuing that city from the possession of the British. After some deliberation, D'Estainge determined on the former. About the first of September, the fleet of D'Estainge appeared off the coast of Georgia. At the sight of this armament, which consisted of 20 sail of the line, and 13 frigates, the republicans exulted in the sanguine hope of capturing their enemies, or of expelling them from their country. The militia mustered with alacrity in considerable force, and marched under the command of General Lincoln to the vicinity of

Savannah. Before their arrival, D'Estainge had summoned the town, and had granted to General Prevost a suspension of hostilities for twenty-four hours, for the purpose of settling the terms of capitulation. But during that interval, the British commander received a reinforcement of several hundred men, who had forced their way from Beaufort, encouraged by which seasonable aid, he determined to hold out to the last extremity. The allied forces, therefore, commenced the seige of the place in form ; but D'Estainge finding that too much time would be consumed in regular approaches, and dreading the hurricanes, which prevail on the southern coasts of America at that season, resolved on an assault. In conjunction with Lincoln, he led his troops to the onset with great gallantry ; but the steadiness of the British won the day, and after having received two slight wounds, he was driven back with the loss of 637 of his countrymen, and 200 of the Americans, killed and wounded. Among the fallen of that day, was the gallant Polish nobleman, Pulaski. At the close of the engagement, D'Estainge retired to his ships, and departed from the coast, while Lincoln crossed the Savannah river, and returned with his forces, daily diminishing by desertion, to South Carolina. In proportion to the joy of the inhabitants of the Southern States at the arrival of the French fleet, was their mortification at the failure of their joint endeavors to rid the country of an active enemy. The brave were dispirited by defeat, and the sanguine began to despair of the fortunes of their country. Those, however, who thought more deeply, took comfort from the consideration that the enemy had

effected little in the course of the campaign, excepting the overrunning and plundering of an extensive tract of territory, and that they had been compelled to terminate their excursion by again concentrating themselves in Savannah.

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### CHARLESTON TAKEN.

SOON after the repulse of the Americans at Savannah, Clinton sailed from New York, with a force of ten thousand men, determined to seize Charleston, which had so long baffled the attacks of the English Armies. In this state of affairs, it would, no doubt, have been the duty of Lincoln to have abandoned Charleston to its fate, and to have fallen back into the interior of the State, and thereby preserved his men and munitions. But the town had so long been preserved, and contained so much public property, and was withal the key of the State, that he resolved, at the urgent solicitations of the principal men of the place, to risk all in defending it.

"The British fleet," in the words of that eloquent historian, Mr. Headley, "soon sailed unmolested up the harbor. Fort Moultrie made no resistance. The troops were disembarked, and, on the 30th of March, 1780, the seige commenced. It is useless to go into the particulars of this distressing seige. With an army that might have swept in one resistless flood over the works, and carried the town in a few hours, Clinton pursued a more cautious

plan, and advanced by regular approaches. On the 10th of April the first parallel was completed, and the garrison summoned to surrender. Lincoln, determined with his three thousand troops to hold out to the last extremity, sent a refusal, and the seige went on. In ten days more the second parallel, was finished, and a second summons sent and rejected. A furious cannonade then commenced, and was kept up, day and night, for several days, filling the bosoms of the inhabitants with terror, and carrying destruction into the town. Lincoln strained every nerve to resist this steady advance: his men were constantly at work on the lines, the parapets were mounted with sandbags, and the batteries served with untiring vigor. The immense number of cannon employed kept Charleston in a treinor, and the incessant explosions were almost deafening. Lincoln, seeing how desperate his situation had become, endeavored to make up in activity and energy what he lacked in strength. Night and day he was seen on the lines, cheering up the men, and directing and overseeing every thing. One day he was ten hours in the saddle without once dismounting—riding hither and thither, with his great heart filled with anxious forebodings; and the last fortnight he never took off his clothes to rest. Flinging himself, in uniform, on a couch, he would snatch a few moments' repose, and then again be seen riding along the lines. All that man could do, he did, and against the entreaties of the suffering inhabitants, the distress of his own men, against even his own convictions of final success, held out with a tenacity and courage worthy of a better result. As he passed along his shattered works, he would

see his soldiers—their faces bloated with toil, sleeping with their instruments and muskets by their sides. The provisions were all exhausted, save a little rice; and fears of famine were added to the miseries that already enveloped him. It was a sad spectacle to see that firm old soldier standing amid the wreck of defences, fighting against despair itself; and still refusing to submit to the decree he knew to be inevitable. To have that long campaign, on which he had staked his reputation, end in utter failure; and surrendes that army with which he had been entrusted to protect the South, was a thought too bitter to contemplate; and he turned away to renew the struggle. Vain courage! shut up by sea and land—part of his guns bursted, others dismounted—without provisions—almost without defences and with but twenty-five hundred effective troops, it was impossible to check the approach of that veteran army of nine thousand. The parallels gradually drew nearer, till the batteries opened within eighty yards of him, and preparations were making for a general storm. Then to save the inhabitants and the town, which he knew could not be held, he capitulated, and his entire army laid down their arms. Charleston fell; and South Carolina lay open to the victorious troops of the enemy. Lincoln was shipped on board an English vessel, and sailed for New York. In November he was exchanged for General Phillips, and in 1781 again joined the army, then around New York, and soon after accompanied Washington in his march to Yorktown."

## C A M D E N .

ONE of the sorest defeats which befel the Americans during the war, was that of Camden, under the command of Gates. After the surrender of Charleston, almost the whole region of the Carolinas had returned to the obedience of the British government. Lord Cornwallis was stationed at Charleston, while Lord Rawdon was located in the interior, at Camden. When General Washington first heard of the seige of Charleston, he had despatched Baron de Kalb, with a reinforcement. But on account of the great length of the march, he was unable to reach the besieged city in season; but when he arrived in Virginia and the Carolinas, large numbers of the militia in those States joined his army, which, at first consisting of but 1400 men, now amounted to 6,000. Congress taking encouragement from this favorable symptom, determined to avail themselves of this force, to make an attempt for the recovery of the South. The Baron de Kalb was unacquainted with the country, and a foreigner. They now sought among the chiefs of the country, for a suitable commander for the southern army. General Gates, whose fame had risen to the highest pinnacle, was of course appointed. He immediately repaired to the confines of South Carolina, and took command of the American forces, which were now numerous and in good spirits. In the latter part of July,

he marched for Camden. The commander, as well as his men, was confident of success. The name of Gates was perhaps too much relied on. The army of Lord Rawdon was at this time far from being in an encouraging condition. A large number of his men were sick, and at most they were far inferior in numbers to the approaching enemy. In this critical situation, Rawdon sent to Charleston for some relief. Lord Cornwallis immediately repaired to Camden, and it is said, upon an investigation of the British strength at that place, was in doubt whether to attempt flight or stand his ground. He adopted, however, the bolder measure. Gates was encamped about 10 miles from Camden. On the 15th of August, about 10 o'clock in the evening, Cornwallis put his troops in motion, in order to surprise the American camp before daylight the next morning. The night was dark, and a very singular coincidence occurred ; Gates at the same time had also ordered an advance upon the British, and the two forces met in the midst of the darkness. Between the vans of the two armies there commenced a severe action. The two commanders again took the same resolution—that was, to suspend operations until daylight. And now, as suddenly as the firing had commenced, it ceased. The profound stillness that succeeded amidst the total darkness was fraught with terror. When the light came, it was discovered that the ground on which the Americans were stationed, was much more unfavorable than that upon which the British army stood. Gates perceiving this, undertook the very imprudent operation of changing his order of battle, while in close proximity with the enemy. Cornwallis promptly

took advantage of this error and furiously charged the Americans while yet in disorder. At the first onset, the army of Gates was repulsed, and although many of the officers and men resisted bravely, yet they never recovered from their first discomfiture. Some parts of the militia behaved with great want of courage. The route of the Americans was complete, and very sanguinary; they lost in killed, wounded, and prisoners, above 2,000. Baron de Kalb was mortally wounded. The British loss did not exceed 300.



## KING'S MOUNTAIN.

DURING the summer of 1780, the tories in the western and mountainous parts of North and South Carolina, had become so bold in their acts of outrage upon the property and lives of the inhabitants, as to be beyond all endurance. These marauders were headed by British officers, and were thus banded together in parties of much strength. The principal of these leaders was one Ferguson, whose name had become at once a terror and a detestation to all the country round. At length the whole region rose, and with one consent combined for his extermination.

"Col. Ferguson had been detached by Lord Cornwallis upon the frontiers of North Carolina, to encourage the loyalists to take arms. A considerable number had repaired to his standard ; but the greater part were of the most profligate and ferocious description of men. Believing anything admissible with the sanction of their chief, they put every thing on their passage to fire and sword. Excesses so atrocious must have inflamed the coldest hearts with the desire of vengeance ; they transported the mountaineers with fury. They descended into the plain by torrents, arming themselves with whatever chance threw within their reach. They foamed at the name of Ferguson ; they conjured the chiefs, they had given themselves, to lead them upon the track of this monster, that they

might make him expiate the ravages and blood with which he had stained himself. Each of them carried besides his arms a wallet and a blanket. They slept on the naked earth, in the open air; the water of the rivulet slaked their thirst; they fed on the cattle they drew after them, or on the game they killed in the forests. They were conducted by the Colonels Campbell, Cleaveland, Shelby, Sevier and Lacy. Every where they demanded Ferguson with loud cries. At every step they swore to exterminate him. At length they found him. But Ferguson was not a man that any danger whatever could intimidate. He was posted on a woody eminence which commands all the adjacent plain, and has a circular base. It is called King's Mountain. An advanced guard defended its approach by the direct road. The mountaineers soon forced them to fall back; then forming in several columns, they endeavored to make their way to the summit. The attack and the defence were equally obstinate; some from behind trees, others under the cover of rocks, maintained an extremely brisk fire. At length those commanded by Cleaveland arrived on the brow of the hill. The English repulsed them with the bayonet. But the column of Shelby came up at the same instant, and it was necessary to dispute the ground with it immediately. It began to give way, when Col. Campbell took part in the combat. Ferguson received him with gallantry; but what could avail his efforts against assaults incessantly renewed, and always with more fury? He was surrounded; and he did all that a man of skill and courage could do to extricate himself. But already the crown of the mount was

inundated with Americans. They summoned Ferguson in vain to surrender; he perished sword in hand. His successor immediately demanded and obtained quarter. The carnage had been dreadful; the royalists had to regret above eleven hundred men in killed, wounded and prisoners, a loss extremely serious in the present circumstances. All the arms and munitions fell into the power of the conquerors. They observed the laws of war towards the English; but they displayed an excessive rigor against the loyalists. They hung several without listening to their remonstrances. They alledged that this execution, was only a just reprisal for that of the republicans put to death by the loyalists at Camden, at Ninety-Six, and at Augusta. Thus was added to the inevitable rigors of war all the ferocity of civil dissensions."

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### COWPENS.

WHILE the war was carried on in the South with such ill success by General Gates, an affair of a very different nature was transpiring in the north: this was no less than the treason of Arnold and the execution of Major Andre.

Congress being dissatisfied with the management of General Gates, appointed General Green to succeed him in the command of the Southern army. The head quarters of this army were at Charlotte, in North Carolina; thither General Green repaired. Finding the army in a very debilitated condition, he resorted to every practicable

measure to restore its spirit. After having received considerable reinforcements, General Green commenced a series of operations for the purpose of harassing Cornwallis. This commander had his head quarters at Winnsborough, in South Carolina. His plan was to carry his conquests northward, overrunning North Carolina and Virginia, and restoring *them* to British domination, as he had done the provinces more southward. General Green's plan was to obstruct the progress of his adversary. This he contemplated doing by avoiding a general engagement; as he felt that his army did not possess sufficient strength to compete on an equal footing with that of Cornwallis.

Pursuant to this arrangement of affairs between the two belligerent parties, Green broke up his camp at Charlotte in the month of December, and proceeded to station himself at the Cheraw Hills, some seventy miles east of Cornwallis; at the same time he despatched Col. Morgan in the opposite direction, to advance southward along the western frontier of South Carolina. Cornwallis, apprehensive that Augusta, in Georgia, was threatened by this movement of Morgan's, immediately sent Tarleton, with a strong force, to pursue Morgan. To the ardent temper and chivalrous disposition of the British Colonel this appointment was perfectly congenial. As his troops were much the more numerous, he advanced upon Morgan in a style of menace. At first Morgan commenced a retreat in the direction of Green's army; but he soon became dissatisfied with that business. At length, being reinforced by a body of militia, and placing great confidence in his veteran and regular troops, he took a stand a Cowpens

and determined to gratify his adversary in his eagerness for combat.

On the morning of the 17th of January, Tarleton put his troops in battle array; and with great rapidity advanced upon the Americans. But Morgan, who also gloried in action, and whose spirit had recoiled for several days, at the humiliation of retreat, with no less alacrity met the encounter.

Without descending to particulars, let it be sufficient to say, that a most complete and glorious victory was gained by the Americans. Upwards of 500 of the British laid down their arms and were made prisoners, and about 300 killed or wounded. The Americans lost in all about 70, not more than 20 being killed. A vast amount of arms and stores also fell into the hands of the Americans.

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## GUILDFORD.

THE battle of Cowpens was the great turning point of the fortune of the republicans in the South. It was the first stroke of General Green's policy in his new field of operations, and it augured well for his future career. It was an introduction to one of the most ably conducted and successful trains of operation that occurred during the revolutionary war.

Bitterly disappointed and discomfitted with the overthrow of Tarleton, Lord Cornwallis resolved to resort to the most prompt and efficient measures to avenge the in-

jury and retrieve the loss. He now determined, if possible, to advance against Morgan, overtake him before he effected a junction with Green, retake his prisoners, and demolish his force; or in case of the junction of the two armies, to cut off their retreat towards Virginia, and force them to an action. General Green, no less vigilant and sagacious, penetrated the plans of his adversary. Despatching his main army to Salisbury, under charge of Gen. Huger, he proceeded himself, with all speed to meet Morgan, and aid him in escaping the grasp of his eager pursuer. Cornwallis, meanwhile, resorted to the extreme measure of destroying all his baggage, by committing it to the flames, in order that he might disencumber his soldiers, and as it were by stripping them to the very skin, the better fit them for the impending chase. The annals of history afford us few more intensely interesting feats in war, than was this celebrated pursuit. Their course lay across the head waters of the many rivers that flow down from the mountains and water the plains of the Carolinas. These, at that season of the year, were very liable to freshets. In more than one instance, before the Americans had departed from the left bank of one of these streams, the English were seen approaching the opposite side. But what was more remarkable; in several instances, when the pursuers had reached one of these rivers and saw the enemy escaping on the other side, before they could make arrangements to ford the current, a freshet would suddenly raise the waters, so as to detain them two or three days; thus giving time for the pursued to make good their escape. The American people supposed they

saw the interposition of Providence in their favor, in this escape, almost as visibly as did the Israelites when they passed through the Red Sea, and the waters returned upon their pursuers.

General Green now directed his course towards Guildford Court House, where he was to be joined by General Huger, who had been left in charge of the main army. On the 7th of January, the two departments of the American army effected their junction in safety. The hostile armies now spent about a month manœuvring, to gain some advantage the one over the other. On the 15th of March, Gen. Green being reinforced by large recruits of militia, took a stand at Guildford, and awaited the onset of his adversary.

Early in the battle some companies of militia fled, and the regulars were soon left to maintain the conflict alone. They fought for an hour and a half with great bravery, and in some instances forced the British to give way. They were, however, at length compelled to retreat, but it was only step by step, and without breaking their ranks. The loss of the Americans in this engagement was estimated at 1300; that of the British, in proportion to their number, was more considerable. Green now retreated to Speedwell's iron works, ten miles from the field of battle.

Cornwallis, although he had the reputation of a victor, found himself, in consequence of his losses, obliged to retreat, while Green was in condition to pursue, thus affording the singular spectacle of a vanquished army pursuing a victorious one. Cornwallis retired to Bell's Mills, and after a few days' repose marched towards Wilmington.

Green, having collected the fugitives of his army, followed the British, and with his light infantry continually harassed their rear. He, however, soon altered his course, and proceeded by forced marches towards Camden, South Carolina.

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### HOBKIRK'S HILL.

"ON the 7th of April, General Green broke up his encampment, and with the main column of his army, moving to the South, took position on Hobkirk's Hill, in front of Camden, the head quarters of Lord Rawdon, now the commander-in-chief of the British forces in the South.

The strength of the British position, which was covered on the south and east side by a river and creek, and to the westward and northward by six redoubts, rendered it impracticable to carry it by storm with the small army Green had, consisting of about 700 continentals, the militia having gone home. He therefore encamped at about a mile from the town, in order to prevent supplies from being brought in, and to take advantage of such favorable circumstances as might occur. Lord Rawdon's situation was extremely delicate. Col. Watson, whom he had some time before detached for the protection of the eastern frontiers, and to whom he had, on the intelligence of Gen. Green's intentions, sent orders to return to Camden, was so effectually watched by Gen. Marion, that it was impossible for him to obey. His lordship's supplies were, moreover, very precarious; and should Gen. Green's

reinforcements arrive, he might be so closely invested as to be at length obliged to surrender. In this dilemma, the best expedient that suggested itself, was a bold attack ; for which purpose he armed every person with him capable of carrying a musket, not excepting his musicians and drummers. He sallied out the 25th of April, and attacked Gen. Green in his camp. The defence was obstinate ; and for some part of the engagement the advantage appeared to be in favor of the Americans. Lieutenant Col. Washington, who commanded the cavalry, had at one time not less than two hundred British prisoners. However, by the misconduct of one of the American regiments, victory was snatched from Gen. Green, who was compelled to retreat. He lost in the action about 200 killed, wounded and prisoners. Rawdon lost about two hundred and fifty eight.

There was a great similarity between the consequences of the affair at Guildford, and those of this action. In the former, Lord Cornwallis was successful ; but was afterward obliged to retreat 200 miles from the scene of action, and for the time abandoned the grand object of retreating to the northward. In the latter, Lord Rawdon had the honour of the field, but was shortly after reduced to the necessity of abandoning his post, and leaving behind him a number of sick and wounded.

The evacuation of Camden, with the vigilance of Gen. Green, and the several officers he employed, gave a new complexion to affairs in South Carolina, where the British ascendancy declined more rapidly than it had been established. The numerous forts garrisoned by the enemy fell, one after another, into the hands of the Americans,

Orangeburg, Motte, Watson, Georgetown, Granby, and others; were surrendered; and a very considerable number of prisoners of war, with military stores and artillery, were found in them."

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### EUTAW SPRINGS.

"Gen. Green, still in his camp at the high hills of the Santee, had made the best use of the time allowed him, by the suspension of arms. It was now the beginning of September, the sultriness of the season had abated, and Green determined if possible to dispossess the British of the remaining posts in the upper country. He marched to the upper Congaree, passed it with all his army, and descended along its right bank, intending to attack Colonel Stewart, who at this time occupied the post of McCord's Ferry. The royalists fell back upon Eutaw Springs; thither Gen. Green pursued them, and on the 8th of September, the armies engaged.

"As the Americans came forward to the attack, they fell in with some advanced parties of the enemy, at about two or three miles ahead of the main body. These being closely pursued, were driven back, and the action soon became general. The militia were at length forced to give way, but were bravely supported by the second line. In the hottest part of the engagement, General Green ordered the Maryland and Virginia continentals to charge with trailed arms. This decided the fate of the day.

'Nothing,' says Dr. Ramsay, 'could surpass the intrepidity of both officers and men on this occasion, they rushed on in good order, through a heavy cannonade and a shower of musketry, with such unshaken resolution, that they bore down all before them.' The British were broken, closely pursued, and upwards of five hundred of them were taken prisoners. They, however, made a fresh stand in a favorable position, in impenetrable shrubs and a picketed garden. Lieutenant Col. Washington, after having made every effort to dislodge them, was wounded and taken prisoner. Four six-pounders were brought forward to play upon them, but they fell into their hands ; and the endeavors to drive them from their station being found impracticable, the Americans retired, leaving a very strong picket on the field of battle. Their loss was about 500 ; that of the British upwards of 1100.

General Green was honored by Congress with a British standard and a gold medal emblematical of the engagement, 'for his wise, decisive, and magnanimous conduct in the action at Eutaw Springs, in which, with a force inferior in number to that of the enemy, he obtained a most signal victory.' "

## EVENTS WHICH IMMEDIATELY PRECEDED THE CLOSE OF THE WAR, AND SIEGE OF YORKTOWN.

AFTER the battle of Guildford, the two hostile armies turned their operations in different directions; Green marched upon South Carolina, and Cornwallis into Virginia. General Lafayette was despatched by Washington with a considerable force to protect Virginia from the depredations of his lordship. Some indecisive fighting and a great deal of manœuvring took place between the two armies. The traitor Arnold had been pillaging and destroying property in Virginia, previously to the arrival of Cornwallis, but about the time of that event he was recalled by "Sir Henry Clinton, who put him in command of a strong detachment and sent him to New London, Connecticut, a flourishing city upon the river Thames, in his native State. Nearly opposite, on a hill in Groton, stood Fort Griswold, which was then garrisoned by militia, hastily summoned from their labors in the field. Against this fort, Arnold despatched a part of his troops. It was assaulted on three sides at the same moment. The garrison, fighting in view of their property and their homes, made an obstinate resistance. By their steady and well directed fire, many of the assailants were killed. Pressing forward with persevering ardor, the enemy entered

the fort through the embrasures. Immediately all resistance ceased. Irritated by a gallantry, which should have caused admiration, a British officer inquired who commanded the fort. ‘I did,’ said Col. Ledyard, ‘but you do now,’ and presented him his sword. He seized it, and with savage cruelty plunged it in his bosom. This was the signal for an indiscriminate massacre. Of one hundred and sixty men composing the garrison, all but forty were killed or wounded, and most of them after resistance had ceased. Seldom has the glory of victory been tarnished by such detestable barbarity. The enemy then entered New London, which was set on fire and consumed. The property destroyed was of immense value. Perceiving no other object within reach of his force, Arnold led back his troops to New York.”

Up to this time there had not accrued that success to the American cause from the French alliance, which might have been looked for, from the assistance of so formidable a nation. Roused at length by the complaints and entreaties of the Americans, and by the expectations of the on-looking nations of Europe, the king of France determined to exert a two fold vigor and activity in order to repair the time lost in the two preceding years. The Count de Grasse, with a large French fleet, was to proceed to the coast of America, in order to co-operate with the land forces of Gen. Washington, and Count de Rochambeau. The British, too, were in good spirits with regard to the prosecution of the war. Their armies had now overrun a greater extent of territory, which they seemed to

hold in subjection, than had been the case at any previous time since the revolt of the colonies.

The plan which tended by a decisive stroke to put an end to the whole American war, drew day by day more near to its consummation. The government was informed that the Count de Grasse, with his fleet and a body of land troops, was about to arrive. It therefore neglected nothing that was demanded by the occasion, in order to be in a situation to profit by the great superiority which the allies were soon to have, as well by land as by sea. To this end, Washington and Rochambeau had an interview at Weathersfield, Connecticut. Count de Barras, who commanded the French squadron at anchor in Rhode Island, was likewise to have been present at the conference, but was detained by other duties. The seige of New York was resolved on by the two generals. Now commenced a succession of events, all of which seemed so remarkably to favor the great result, which terminated the war, that many of the American people have firmly believed them to be so many special acts of Providence to bring about their deliverance. The British being ten thousand strong in New York, it was thought necessary to raise the American army to twenty thousand. The appearance of the Count de Grasse on the coast was to be the signal for commencing the seige. In order to raise the required number of troops, Washington called on the adjoining States to furnish their quotas; but they were dilatory in complying with the call, and thus the commencement of the seige was retarded. Meanwhile, Washington was informed of the condition of Cornwallis in Virginia, and at once de-

termined it better to concentrate against him, than to undertake the seige of New York. But had the plans and orders of the commander-in-chief been executed as promptly as was his urgent desire, the seige would have been in such a state of forwardness, that it could not have been relinquished for the more favorable prospect of success in marching against Cornwallis. But the movements which had already been made—having given jealousy to Clinton for the safety of New York, Washington resolved, notwithstanding he had changed his plan, to nourish the suspicion of his adversary, by a series of spirited demonstrations, to the end that the British commander might not penetrate his real design, and throw obstacles in its way. Clinton was led still further into the snare by having read intercepted letters sent to the southern commanders, informing them of his determination to attack New York. Clinton full of apprehension for a city which had become his place of arms, was indefatigable in multiplying its defences.

Washington broke up his camp at New Windsor, and went to meet Rochambeau, who had sailed from Rhode Island. The two armies effected their junction, and went to encamp at Phillipsburgh, in a situation to overawe Kingsbridge and the adjoining posts, and even to alarm the island of New York. Not content with these demonstrations, the principal officers of both armies, attended by their engineers, reconnoitered the British works in New York closely, on both sides, from the opposite shores. By these different movements of the combined army, General Clinton no longer doubted but that New York was men-

aced with an immediate attack. When Washington received intelligence that Count de Grasse was no longer far from the Chesapeake, he suddenly passed the Croton, then the Hudson, and proceeded by forced marches through New Jersey to Trenton. But further, this consummate general of the new world, now showing a depth of skill sufficient to overreach and hold in leading strings the profoundest of Europe's warriors, gave out and even persuaded the British General, by his demonstrations, that his only object was to draw him out of New York, in order to fight him in the open field, with superior forces. Clinton, thinking to defeat one shrewd turn by another, remained behind his fortifications. But the American generalissimo, having at length received notice that the French fleet was in sight of the coasts, no longer delayed to cross the Delaware. He marched with extreme celerity through Pennsylvania, and appeared all of a sudden at the head of the Elk, upon the northern extremity of Chesapeake Bay. And now all at once the bandage fell from the eyes of Clinton; and he saw himself left in security; but the storm was fast gathering around Cornwallis in Virginia. The precious moment for sending him succor was lost. Three days before the arrival of Count de Grasse in the Chesapeake, Count de Barras had made sail from Rhode Island, with four ships loaded with intrenching tools, with which to erect the besieging works against Cornwallis, a most important item in carrying on the seige. It was of the utmost moment that this squadron should not be intercepted by the British fleet. The wily commander who had charge of the intrenching tools,

stood far out to sea, and after reaching the Bahamas, steered his course for the Chesapeake. Meanwhile, Admiral Hood appeared at the entrance of that bay, whose object was to draw de Grasse out to sea, to give battle, and if possible defeat him, and thus keep the way open for the admission of reinforcements to Yorktown, for the succor of Cornwallis. De Grasse was artful enough to comprehend the whole object of the British Admiral; and although he sallied out he was careful not to risk a close engagement, but manœuvred at partial ones, until he learned that de Barras had slipped in with the intrenching tools; then he drew off, and proceeded immediately to the blockade of Yorktown; while Admiral Hood retired to New York to refit his damaged ships. Lord Cornwallis fortified his army, which consisted of 7,000 veteran troops, in Yorktown, on the right bank of York river, and also fortified Gloucester point, on the opposite side of the river. He was surrounded on the Gloucester side by the army of Layfayette, on the Yorktown side, where the main besieging was to take place, by the combined armies of Washington and Rochambeau, and on the water by the French fleet. Thus commenced a siege, in its results the most glorious, the world has ever been called to witness.

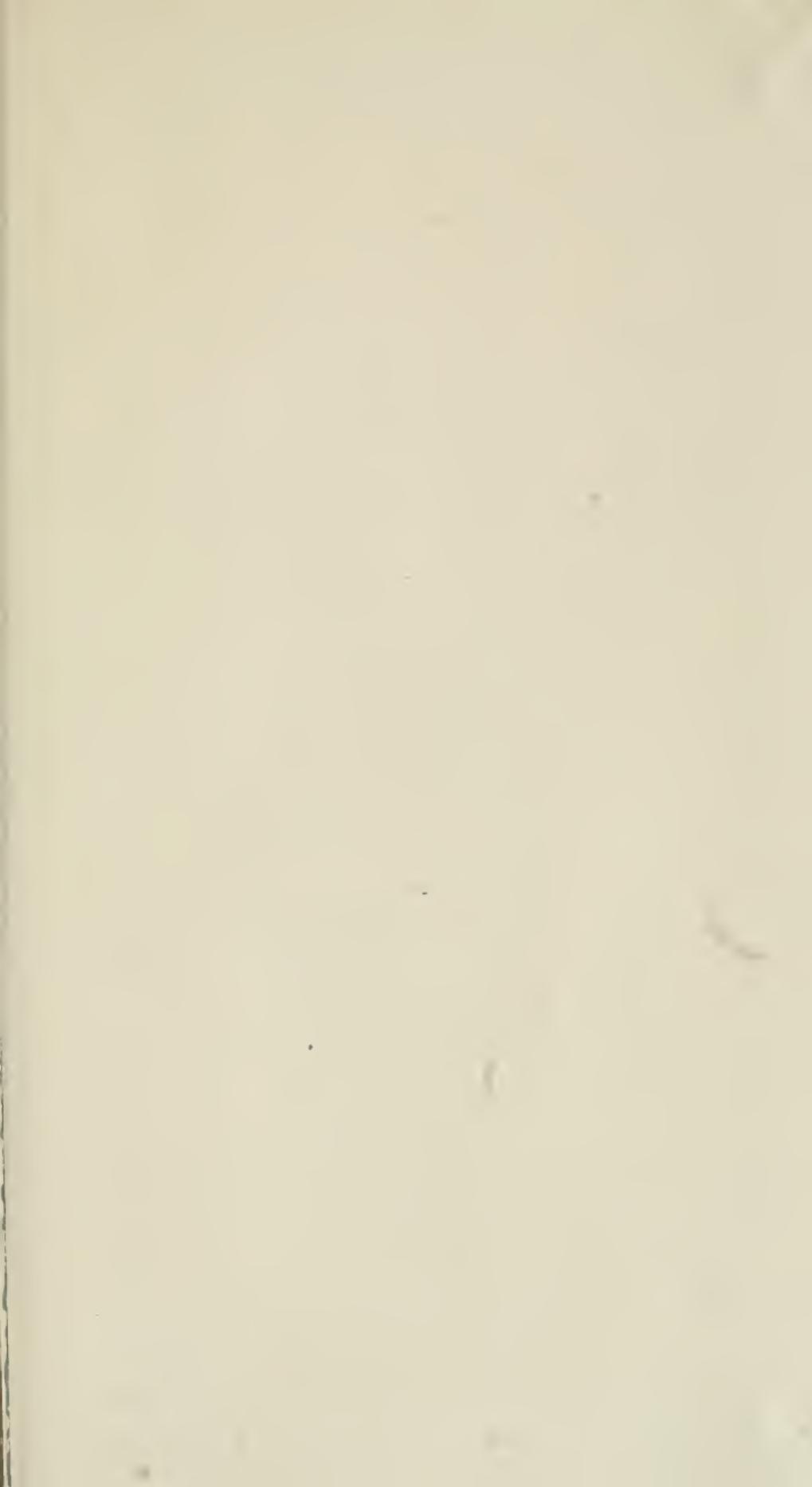
It is not consistent with the plan of this little work to enter into the details of this investiture; a few circumstances only can be mentioned. The besieging army consisted of 20,000 land troops, four-fifths of whom were regulars, and a French fleet of 30 sail of the line. Most of the illustrious officers of the war were present. The

young Hamilton was one of the most active aid-de-camps of Washington. General Knox here displayed the talents of a consummate engineer, and had the control of that very important department. On the 6th of October, the intrenchments were pronounced ready for operations. About 10 o'clock of that night, one hundred heavy cannon opened their fire. All the circumstances of this scene were indescribably grand and sublime. From the north and from the south the heroes of freedom had met. They exchanged salutations with hearts overflowing with the most joyous hope that a glorious termination of all their toils was at hand. And now the first battery opened with deafening explosions ; the next, and the next, and so round the semicircle, explosion quickly succeeding explosion. The officers gathered in groups, and watched with intense anxiety this first experiment. Through the deep gloom of night the long, fiery trains arched over the devoted town. With terrible precision they carried destruction into every part of the besieged army. Some of the balls swept quite over the town and fell among the shipping in the river, setting them on fire and thus heightening the sublimity of the scene. The besieged for a short time returned the fire, but their guns were soon silenced. The officers of Cornwallis advised him to transport his army across the river, and by that means attempt escape ; but every measure that might have afforded relief was either neglected or adopted too late. In the midst of these irresistible perils, Lord Cornwallis received a despatch from Clinton, which held out the hope that if the winds and other unforeseen events did not prevent, the relief would

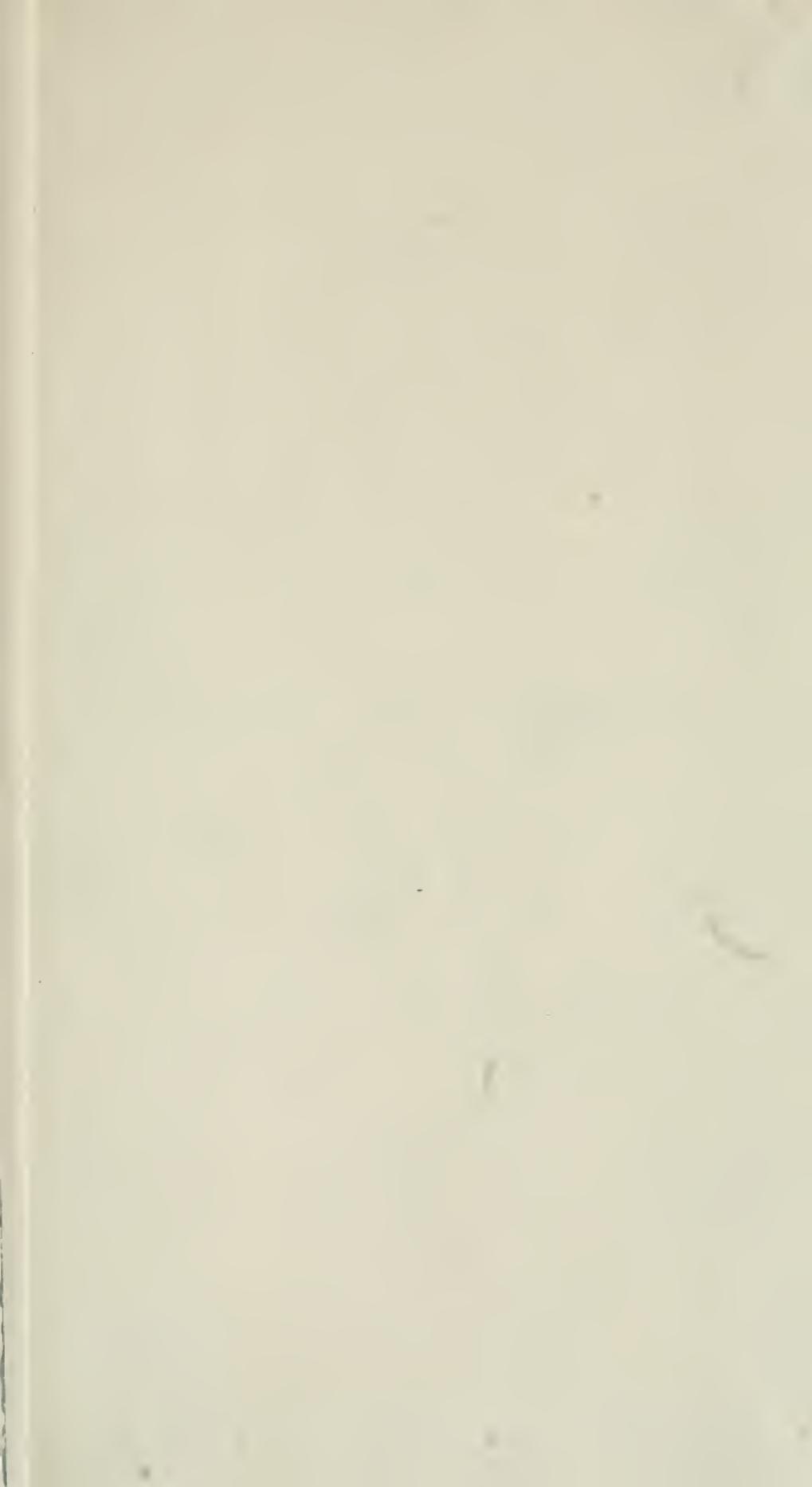
sail from New York the twelfth of October. This news afforded but little consolation. The danger and destruction grew more dreadful every hour. Disease and even famine began to co-operate with the missiles of the enemy in scattering death and dismay in every direction. At length Cornwallis resorted to the measure which, if he had adopted it at first, might have saved his army ; this was to cross the river by night, and escape. Here another of those remarkable incidents or Providential interpositions occurred. The preparations being completed to pass the river, under cover of night, already a part of the troops are landed at Gloucester point ; another portion is embarked ; the third division only is waited for : a perfect calm prevails in the air and upon the waters ; every thing seemed to favor the design of the British commander. But suddenly, at that critical moment of hope, apprehension and danger, a violent storm of wind and rain arose. All was lost ! the boats were driven down the river, and the army, thus weakened and divided, was involved in a state of imminent danger. The day began to appear. The besiegers opened a tremendous fire from all their batteries, and the bombs fell thickly upon the devoted ranks of the doomed army. But the tempest in the meantime, abated ; the boats were able to return, and the English, finding this last way of safety interdicted, came back, not without new perils, to that shore where a certain death or an inevitable captivity awaited them. The white flag was sent to Washington, and Cornwallis soon agreed to terms of capitulation.

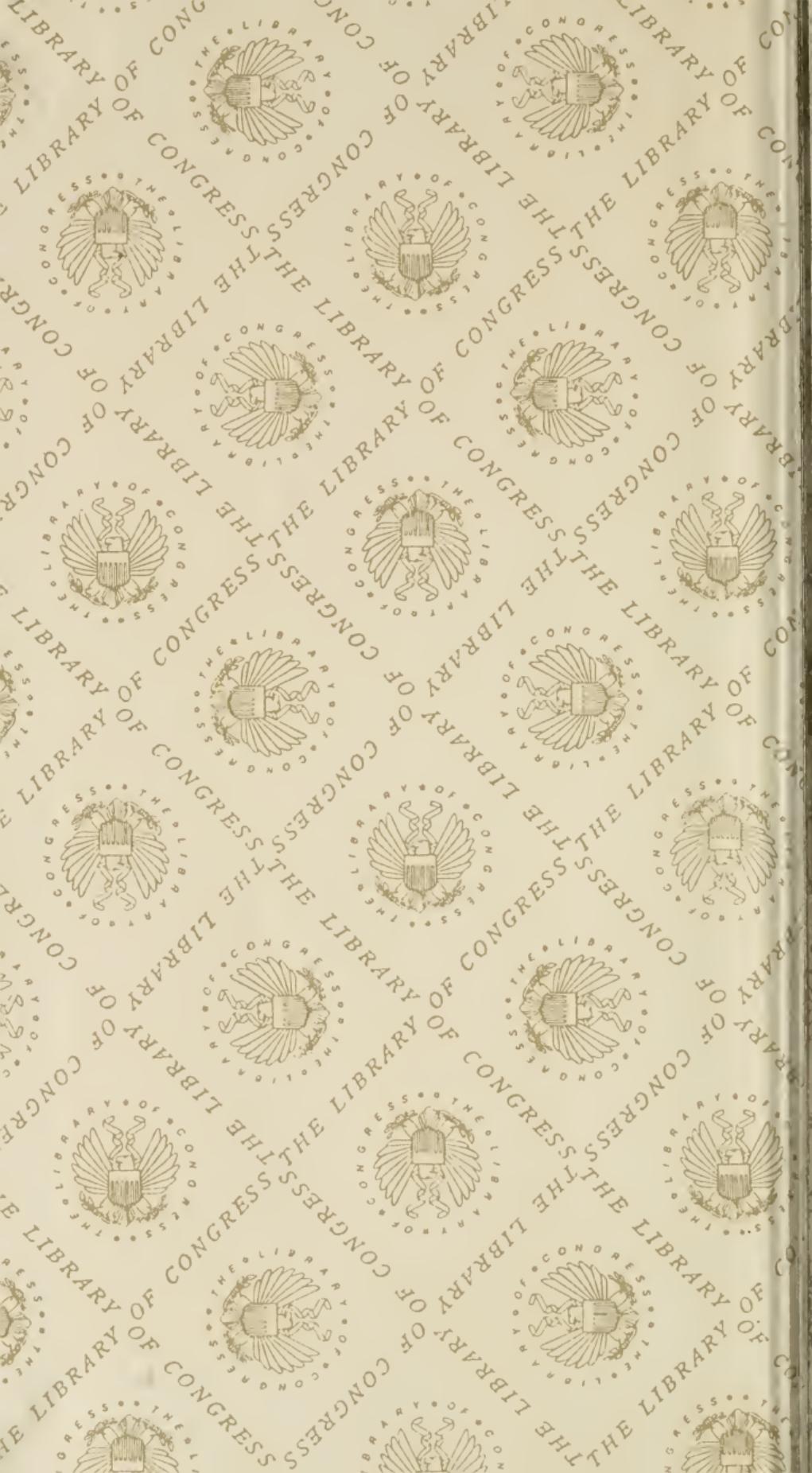
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